

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome.....	213
Leading Articles:—	
Illegitimate Landation.....	214
Hongkong Water Supply Schemes.....	214
Anti-Gambling Crusade at Hongkong.....	215
The Danger to China.....	215
Merchants and Ministers.....	216
Hongkong Sanitary Board.....	216
Supreme Court.....	218
Hongkong Volunteer Troop.....	219
Kowloon School Prize Distribution.....	219
The Continued Danger from Floating Mines.....	219
Royal Hongkong Yacht Club.....	219
The Hongkong Water Supply.....	219
The Fog.....	220
Canton.....	220
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.....	220
Shanghai Dividends.....	221
Correspondence.....	221
News from Nanchang.....	221
Shanghai Politics.....	221
Commercial.....	222
Shipping.....	224

BIRTHS.

On the morning of the 19th March, at the Government Civil Hospital, the wife of N. G. NOLAN, of a daughter.

On March 11th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. P. FISCHER, a son.

On March 13th, at Shanghai, the wife of L. H. GABB, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On March 9th, at Shanghai, JAMES BELL TAYLOR to CHARLOTTE IDA CLARK, second daughter of Mr. JAMES CLARK, I.M. Customs Service.

On March 10th, at Shanghai, JOCK F. HAUSMANN, late of Manila, to VIRGINIA OCTAVIA WALDRON, of Shanghai.

DEATHS.

On March 10th, at Shanghai, CYRIL WILFRED JOHN CAULTON, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE CAULTON.

On March 12th, at Shanghai, PETER SYS, aged 70 years.

On March 22nd, at noon, at her residence, 13, Mosque Street, Mrs. R. F. GUTIERREZ, aged 69 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of February 16th arrived per the ss. *Arma d Behic*, on Tuesday, the 20th instant; and the English Mail of Feb. 23rd arrived, per the ss. *Arcadia*, on Wednesday, the 21st instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

A Japanese naval engineer named Kimura has succeeded in inventing a wireless telephone.

Information has reached Hongkong that the ss. *Agincourt* has been lost in the Torres Straits.

H. M. The Empress Dowager of China has contributed Tls. 100,000 to the Japan Famine Fund.

Mr. D. M. Nisim, of the firm of Messrs. David Sassoon & Co., has joined the directorate of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in place of Mr. E. Shellim.

Marshal Marquis Oyama will shortly resign his position as Chief of the General Staff in favour of General Kodama, who will be succeeded as Governor-General of Formosa by General Sakuma.

The French have made a post-mortem examination of the magistrate Chiaug, and the Governor has asked the resident doctor at Nanchang to make a post-mortem examination on behalf of the Chinese Government.

In consequence of the frequent demands for compensation for missionary property destroyed, the provincial authorities have been instructed to make an assessment of all missionary properties and revise it from time to time.

The Japanese House of Representatives in the Committee stage has adopted the nationalisation of the domestic railways by an overwhelming majority and was unanimous for the taking over of the Seoul-Fusan railway.

It is reported in Mandarin circles that the Waiwupu is sending a special mission to Manchuria this summer for the purpose of delimiting scientifically in conjunction with Korean officials the boundaries of the two countries.

At the annual meeting of the Weihaiwei Land and Building Co., held on March 12th, the Chairman said that until the future of Weihaiwei was known it would be very injudicious to invest any more capital in the place.

The monument to Will Adams at Hemimura Yokosuka, is to be restored, and the site converted into a public park. A replica of the monument is to be made in Japan of native granite and erected at the birthplace of Will Adams, Gillingham, in Kent, England.

On March 12th the German str. *Fiume*, 850 tons net register, was run into by the China Merchants' str. *Kiangkwan*, and sustained serious damage to some plates and frames. The *Fiume* was at anchor below the Harbour limits, near the Cosmopolitan Dock, Shanghai.

A native contemporary reports that H. E. Sir Ernest Satow has been lately protesting to the Waiwupu against the appointment of such a reactionary official as En Ming, late Provincial Treasurer of Kiangning, to the Governorship of Anhui province, where there are important British interests.

The following notification is published in a recent issue of the *Gazette*:—Harbour-master's Department.—The following telegram has been received from the Commissioner of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs at Amoy: "Drifting mine blew up fishing boat two miles East of Turnabout Island on the 9th instant."

It is announced that Mr. Edward Osborne, Secretary to the Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, has been appointed to fill the temporary vacancy in the Legislative Council by the approaching absence on leave of the Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart. Mr. Osborne has sat at the Council before with credit to himself and advantage to the community.

It is reported from Tientsin that Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai has arranged for the sending of about thirty mechanics, selected from amongst the best of those in the new Arsenal at Tschou. Sht., to England and Germany to study methods of gun-casting and riflemaking. These men, who will be under the charge of an official, will probably remain abroad about two years.

A dispatch of the 13th instant from the north states that the Japanese have returned the Hsinmintun-Mukden Railway to China, and that the control and direction of that line will henceforth be in the hands of the Poyang Administration.

The French and Japanese Fleets have arrived at Hongkong. Practically the whole of the first division of the French Far Eastern squadron is returning the visit which the British squadron recently paid to Saigon, the vessels being the two armoured cruisers *Montcalm* and *Gueydon*, and the six destroyers, *Javeline*, *Pistolet*, *Francisque*, *Proude*, *Rapière* and *Sabre*, the only absentee being the armoured cruiser *Dupetit Thouars*. Admiral Richard is accompanied by Rear Admiral Kiesel on his flagship the *Montcalm*. The Japanese squadron is smaller. Both officials and civilians are doing their utmost to please the guests.

Mr. Peter Sys, who had for many years a large practice as an unregistered physician in Shanghai, died on March 12th.—The *N.C. Daily News* comments:—The sudden death of Mr. Peter Sys, "French Peter," as he was familiarly termed, came as a great blow to a large section of the community. Before coming to Shanghai some years ago he was a hospital ward attendant in Java, and there he learnt certain remedies for tropical diseases which he used afterwards with great success on a large number of patients, often effecting cures when the patients had begun to despair. From Java he came to Shanghai, where he was a ward attendant at the General Hospital, a post which he resigned when he went into private practice, though he never professed to be a qualified medical man, one great element in his success being the faith his patients had in him. It appears that he did his work all day on Monday as usual—and he was very young for his years—and seemed to be in good health, but as he was about to step into his bath, at 8 p.m., he fell back dead, apoplexy being the cause of death. He leaves a widow and family to mourn his loss.

A correspondent in Peking sent the *N.C. Daily News* the following account of the events in the palace at Peking, which gave rise to the recent sensational rumours. It seems that almost simultaneously with the discovery of a few bombs at the railway station, four others were found actually within the Palace precincts. The Court was in consternation and the Empress Dowager summoned the chief eunuch, Li Lien-ying, to upbraid him for his neglect. She told him that only his long and faithful services saved him from immediate execution. Li Lien-ying prostrated himself while Her Majesty stormed, and was then ordered to go and "find out matters." His investigations resulted in his having four young eunuchs beaten to death "whose actions had of late been rather suspicious," and he then reported to Her Majesty what he had done. The explanation having been received in grim silence, Li kowtowed and eventually confessed that old age and ill-health made him unfit for his duty; he wished to resign. "You may leave the Presence" said the Empress. Within a quarter-hour an Imperial Rescript in Her Majesty's own handwriting relieved the eunuch of all his offices about the Court and appointed him to the sinecure post of Inspector of Eho Park Palace. The eunuch Tsui succeeds to Li's honours and responsibilities.

ILLEGITIMATE LAUDATION.

(Daily Press, 19th March.)

The newspapers have been giving a good deal of attention to a book written by Miss KATHARINE A. CARL, the American lady who is justifiably elated at the fact that she was privileged to paint the first portrait ever made of the Chinese DOWAGER-EMPRESS. Considering all the difficulties attending the undertaking, we understand that it was a very good painting, and are disposed to give ungrudgingly all the credit to Miss CARL that she deserves as an artist. But we are less satisfied with the book she has written, describing the DOWAGER-EMPRESS as a gracious and lovable woman. We are embarrassed by the sex of the author, to whom we cannot decently apply such terms as sycophantic or toadyish. We must be content to point out that with a better sense of proportion, and a less overwhelming sense of the unique honour conferred upon her Miss CARL would have been enabled to avoid many mistakes and misrepresentations in this half-guinea account of her stay "With the Empress Dowager of China." It would have been too much to expect of the modern *cacoethes scribendi* patient, under such apparently advantageous conditions in the way of exclusive information, to refrain from temptation altogether. Of late years the veil of mystery covering Her Imperial Highness of China has worn thin, and Miss CARL's opportunities, specially good for painting a portrait, were by no means so for a character study. Lady SUSAN TOWNLEY had already told us what an amiable hostess the DOWAGER-EMPRESS could be; other ladies, to the regret of many people of a less forgetful nature, have taken occasion to observe the same thing. This social charm is by no means inseparable from a reputation for qualities less pleasing. CÆSAR BORGIA would have been a welcome ornament to any polite circle; and the father of Lord BYRON's "Haidee" was as genteel a fellow as any who ever cut a throat. We have our own opinion of the ability of Miss CARL's heroine; possibly, in view of conditions and circumstances at Peking, any cunning woman with the right amount of unscrupulousness could have bested the domineering record of TZE-SHI, Tzu-Hsi, or, as the Americans call her, TSI-ANN. Much less a matter of opinion, however, is the guilt of this eminent personage's behaviour to the stranger within her gates. Perhaps, we might say of her complaisance to Legation ladies and to Miss CARL, she does right to dissemble her hate, but why should they therefore sing the praises of a hostess whose treatment of foreign guests in the past was apparently modelled on Nero's treatment of the Early Christians? Her age, and her rumoured growing infirmity, would prompt us to let bygones be bygones, if people like Miss CARL would only not startle us with these "revelations" of how a charming lady must have been maligned. Miss CARL is wholly appreciative, and professes to "love her as a woman." Of course that may mean no more than the kiss of one woman to another, followed often by some scandalous criticism of the person kissed. Miss CARL will have no backbiting, however: she is convinced that the DOWAGER-EMPRESS has been unfairly criticised, and feels it a duty to rush into print, in defiance of Court etiquette, in her defence. Her evidence, unfortunately, has insufficient weight. There is nothing inconsistent with our estimate of the lady's character in Miss CARL's discovery that she is a "kindly-looking lady, remarkably young looking, with a winning

smile, and a passionate fondness for flowers." "She would hold a flower to her face, drink in its fragrance, and caress it as if it were a sentient thing." That is very pretty, but there is no evidence that this taste, so symptomatic of an angelic temperament, has been acquired only in the last half dozen years. We have no doubt that she continued to be well supplied with flowers to caress all the time the prisoners in the Legations were yearning for food to eat. Miss CARL has quite a lot to say about her patroness's fondness for dogs, a trait that was shared by one WILLIAM SYKES. There is also a foolish anecdote intended to illustrate the EMPRESS's "wonderful personal magnetism" (a truly American phrase) and her "power over animals." Miss CARL is probably justified in telling us that the DOWAGER-EMPRESS is anxious that the Chinese should not be overtaxed; it is one of those little remarks that Her Majesty might easily let slip, inadvertently as it were. We will now dismiss the subject with one specimen anecdote, one of the kind that "need no comment." It is said to illustrate the combination of womanly kindness and Imperial etiquette in Her Majesty's composition. "On one occasion a lady of high rank, married to a kinsman of the EMPRESS-DOWAGER, was invited to the Palace with her family. She had two little girls, and when the family went up to bow and repeat the salutation to Her Majesty, the younger daughter, only five years old, refused either to make the bow or repeat the salutation, but sat down on the floor and cried! The EMPRESS-DOWAGER waited patiently for the mother to correct the little girl, for she is very fond of children and disposed to condone their faults. The little girl would not, however, listen to reason, and continued to show temper. Her Majesty could not allow such a breach of the 'proprieties,' even in a child of this age, and the high rank of the family of the little girl made it the more imperative that she should conform to the rules of propriety and observe the etiquette of the Court. When Her Majesty saw that all efforts at bringing her to reason were fruitless, she ordered the child to be taken away. Whereupon the mother began crying, and begged her not to be offended with the little girl. She replied, 'Do you think a person of superior intelligence could be offended with a baby? I send you out of the Palace to teach you a lesson, which you must teach your child. I do not blame her; I blame you and pity her; but she must suffer as well as yourself. You must teach your child that "it is by the rules of propriety that character is established (Confucius);" and she was inexorable. The family left the Palace and was not invited again for some time.' The modest implication as to who was "a person of superior intelligence" scarcely seems warranted by the incident of expecting an infant to remember that rules of propriety establish character. It certainly does not appear to us that the ruling on propriety mentioned establishes the character in which Miss CARL of America desires us to believe.

HONGKONG WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES.

(Daily Press, 20th March.)

There can be no better illustration of the truth of the *tempora mutantur* adage than a review of the history of Hongkong's water supply. In these days, we regard adequate arrangements for a plentiful supply of good fresh water as the first and paramount duty of our legislators; especially during the last week, when the value of another well-known

adage has made itself apparent—the one that gratuitously reminds us how we miss the water when the well runs dry. As we know, work is proceeding now to increase our local storage capacity, and it is to be hoped that nothing will be allowed to stand in the way of its being steadily continued. In the past, very curious views appear to have been entertained of the importance of the matter. The first serious talk of establishing waterworks seems to have been in the year 1858, and for his ardent advocacy, in face of influential opposition, of what we now unanimously recognise as the only sensible programme, the Colonial Secretary of that day, Mr. W. T. MERCER, deserves a monument. It seems difficult to believe, but the absurdity is recorded in our Colonial history, that the Governor, Sir JOHN BOWRING, "opined that it was not the business of the Government to furnish individuals with water any more than other necessities of life, and that therefore the annual income of the Colony was not fairly applicable to such speculations!" He thought it ought to be left to the enterprise of a joint-stock company, and even then talked in a way to frighten off such enterprise by mentioning the probable difficulty of collecting water charges from the Chinese. To do him justice, Sir JOHN BOWRING had one excuse, that we may regard as natural, though not valid. He was very much in love with his Praya scheme, and having already experienced on more than one occasion the passive resistance that departmentalism can offer to the energy of the most energetic governor, he seems to have jumped to the conclusion that some of the opponents of his scheme were trumping up these new schemes in the hope of diverting funds and so swamping his own. It was left, eventually, for his successor, Sir HERCULES ROBINSON, to take up the matter, and this was done, we read, "with the vigour which characterised all his doings," ably supported by the Colonial Secretary already mentioned. By the year 1863, the works were sufficiently advanced to justify a charge for water, and then our waterless "drinking fountain" was erected in front of the City Hall site. The population at that time was only 124,850, including 3,149 non-Chinese. The first water charge was at the rate of two per cent. on the gross annual value of house property, as assessed. But it was even then realised that the relief was only temporary. The population was expected to grow rapidly, although, as a fact, it decreased considerably at that period. Five years later, when the foreign population had doubled, Sir R. G. MACDONNELL spent nearly \$20,000 to improve the water supply, and towards the end of the year was asking for a further \$20,000. Unlike Sir JOHN BOWRING, this Governor spoke of it as "a most necessary public work," and deplored the incompetence of the Colonial employees which had so botched an important scheme. He was the first to import a competent engineer to superintend the waterworks. The Pokfulam scheme, begun in 1871, was completed in Sir ARTHUR KENNEDY's administration, when the Tytan scheme, now advancing a further stage, was first projected. The whole history of the water schemes is a history of half schemes and tinkering, owing to hesitations and diffidences connected with funds. In Sir J. P. HENNESSY's time, the question of the water supply was still a financial one; and we read that as regards this and other public works, his term of office was "chiefly remarkable for the number of important works discussed, declared urgent, and rejected or postponed." Nothing can be more urgent than an adequate water supply, and there should have

been no hesitation in mortgaging the Colony to secure it. Dr. EITEL says, "The Ty-tam waterworks, the plans for which had been approved under the previous administration, Sir JOHN fought shy of for years, and when at last the Colonial Office sent out peremptory orders that the work should be commenced at once, Sir JOHN, for purely financial reasons, took it upon himself to disregard the commands he received from Downing Street, and the work was not commenced until 1882, on the eve of his departure." Unfortunately for the comfort and well-being of the residents, it is even yet unfinished.

Some additional notes on the present state of affairs appear elsewhere in this issue.

ANTI-GAMBLING CRUSADE AT HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 21st March.)

Remark is frequently made on the apparent inconsistency which permits the harassing of petty Chinese gamblers—as in the case where a few coolies were prosecuted and fined for gambling with matches—while racing sweeps and pari-mutuels are conducted publicly. It is not easy to say why these prosecutions are undertaken, or rather, why the Ordinance which inspires them is allowed to stand. Every law must have an object, but what it is in this case, is, as DUNDREARY used to say, one of those things that no fellow can understand. The elementary principle established by MILL in his famous essay on "Liberty" was that society could not meddle with the freedom of the individual except for the public good: it had no right to constrain or control him for his own good. Rapid mental review of British law suggests that on the whole it is based on this principle, the anti-gambling laws being an apparent exception. It might be argued that restrictions upon gambling are for the common good, that gamblers are peculiarly liable to neglect their duties to the public, e.g., the duty of maintaining their families; but it is evident that there are many men who can gamble and yet perform these duties. In their case, an anti-gambling law meant to safeguard duties not endangered are inequitable and immoral. In Great Britain it is notorious that the anti-gambling laws cannot touch these favoured individuals. But there is no need to go outside the Colony for such examples. As we have already remarked, it is tacitly admitted that in this Colony, where gambling is declared illegal, some men may gamble and others may not. Why was such an Ordinance established? Were some of our bygone legislators of the Puritan school, and is it that subsequent generations are being harassed because of the tender consciences of these past people? It is obvious that the peace of the community is less threatened by a couple of poor coolies who transfer from one to the other the miserably insignificant assets they may have, by their "inveterate habit," than by the young man with a moderate wage who invests in one pari-mutuel ticket at every race. The first mention of gambling in EITEL's history of Hongkong affords a possible reason for the Ordinance. It was the belief, probably correct, of Sir JOHN BOWRING that the spot where almost all crime was conducted in Hongkong was to be found in the unlicensed gambling houses of Taipingshan. His idea, however, was that the vice could not be suppressed, and he was in favour (1856) of regulating it, by copying the system at Macao. It was gambling house quarrels in 1861 that again called attention to the general mania for gambling, and

local shopkeepers, who had never heard of MILL, hit upon the obvious remedy of "suppressing gambling." They petitioned Sir HERCULES ROBINSON to that end," and used the cunning argument that it was demoralising servants. But the Governor seems to have recognised that wholesale suppression of gambling was not the proper method to take, and his proposal was the registration of servants (1862) a sensible scheme to which the Chinese public objected; and they have had their way ever since, in spite of foreign petitions arising from a crying need. Sir R. G. MACDONNELL was the next Governor to tackle the subject, and in discussing his efforts, Dr. EITEL says, "This national vice [gambling], like opium smoking and prostitution, but more widespread and powerful than either, is rooted in an ineradicable, because congenital, disease of the Chinese social organism." We make this quotation, and refrain from analysing it, because it helps to establish the point that gambling is too strong a feature of human nature to be "suppressed." Sir R. G. MACDONNELL played the part of strong man, and his attack upon the gambling houses was eminently vigorous and practical, if not quite fair. For instance, he made "householders responsible for the payment of fines incurred by residents or lodgers." Street gambling continued in spite of him, he confessed in a report, in which he showed that his ambition was to suppress gambling altogether in the Colony. In 1867, he found that he had failed, and decided that prohibition was destructive of police morals and ineffective for the purpose sought. It was then that licensed houses were opened, as a "vent for the irrepressible Chinese passion for gambling," to the sorrow of the moralists of that period. With the particular question involved we have no concern, although, with Dr. EITEL, we appreciate and sympathise with Sir R. G. MACDONNELL's position. A draft Bill afterwards submitted, for the repression of gambling, was rejected on the ground that "no person in the Colony would be safe." This might be said of the existing law, if it were generally applied instead of worrying only a few coolies. Sir A. E. KENNEDY appointed a special suppression Commission in 1872; but in 1875 the historian wrote that it was still an unsolved problem, shirked by all concerned.

THE DANGER TO CHINA.

(Daily Press, 22nd March)

Although there is some truth in the idea that the masses in China have been induced by the result of the Russo-Japanese War to look with less respect upon foreigners generally, it can hardly be supposed that a similar view has been taken by the official classes or that it will greatly affect the relations of China with foreign nations unless some unexpected local disturbances should occur. With regard to the anti-foreign feeling which has unfortunately been of late manifested in various directions, it is natural to conclude that it results from the spectacle of a neighbouring Eastern nation having been able successfully to wage war against a foreign Power and more especially against Russia, which country was being looked upon as the most formidable menace to China. The possibility of this contingency arising is so obvious that there is a danger of overestimating it, and what may really be only special illustrations of the old anti-foreign feeling among the ignorant masses may be mistaken for a general movement instigated at least to some extent by the high authorities at the Capital. The difficulty of

course is to discover how far each of these elements enters into the matter. So far as the bulk of the people in China are concerned, it is not unlikely that the triumph of the Japanese may have had a bad effect and may have led the more ignorant among them to believe that after all the idea that foreigners could be expelled from China might prove correct. Of course such a frame of mind amongst the masses would form an excellent ground for working up a local rising and would be availed of by unscrupulous officials—and others desirous of causing trouble for special reasons. This is indeed the great danger which has to be faced at the present time; and we have had various warnings that it may end in serious trouble unless strong pressure be brought to bear upon local officials by the central authorities. The question, therefore, is whether the Peking Government will *bona fide* endeavour to put down the beginnings of such disturbances, or whether as they have so often in their temporising manner done before, they will secretly encourage them as a means of demonstrating the impossibility of their adopting anything like a forward policy, and thus continuing their old exclusive and obstructive tactics. Upon this point, it is difficult for the best-informed and most experienced Europeans to pronounce a decided opinion. The matter must depend largely upon what policy China is prepared to adopt towards foreign nations under the altered condition of affairs consequent upon the conclusion of the recent Japanese and Russian War. The only thing, however, that is certain about Chinese foreign policy is that it will prove something which nobody would anticipate, and probably something entirely different from what the officials either declare or indicate by their actions. Nobody would have thought it likely that China would have given in to Russia to the extent she did for years past and have thus allowed her to encroach so far as to become a serious menace not only to the Chinese Empire but also to Japan. Yet this policy was deliberately followed in spite of all protests and warning, and it was no thanks to the Chinese that it did not result in Russia obtaining such a foothold that she would have been able to annex Manchuria and to advance further at any time that might suit her. That Russia's action would be stayed either by foreign influence or by bringing her into conflict with Japan was no doubt calculated upon by China; but what the result of either of these contingencies would be was by no means clear. Yet China was perfectly willing to take her chance and events favoured her beyond what could possibly have been expected. The idea, which would occur to any other nation of making a definite stand never entered the Chinese mind. Russia was a great Power and was threatening her borders; and therefore China thought she was the nation to be specially conciliated and temporised with, while she trusted of course to future events and the jealousy of other foreign nations of Russia, and went on temporising in the hope, which was ultimately realised, that Japan would take up the quarrel which China was too weak or too undecided to take up herself.

At the present time Japan is the most powerful nation in the immediate neighbourhood of China, and we find the latter willing to recognise the situation; and, while there are ominous rumblings betokening hostility to foreign nations generally, it is supposed that Japan is to be an exception to this animosity. The outer barbarians must be kept in check by some means and now that this cannot be done by arousing

their jealousy of one another, it is apparently thought the next best thing is to make use of Japan and to endeavour by this means to show such a front that no foreign nation would be disposed seriously to oppose her. Some such view has probably entered the minds of the Peking authorities; and it would account for the fact that from the menaces against foreigners, which have arisen of late, Japan has been excluded; and it has been carefully made known that the Japanese would under all circumstances be safe. The peculiar kind of shuffling policy involved in this line of action is eminently Chinese, and is quite in accordance with all Chinese traditions. But if this is their idea there is good reason to believe that on the present occasion it will be found they are reckoning without their host. It is almost incomprehensible to the European mind that the Chinese would imagine that they can induce Japan to join with them against foreign nations; but from their point of view such an idea is not so unreasonable. The Chinese look upon Japan as a nation in many respects similar to themselves—at all events much more so than any European nation, and they may flatter themselves that they may contrive to get Japan on their side should any conflict with European nations arise. The likelihood of this is, however, very small. Japan has become so thoroughly identified with the policy of foreign nations taking them as a whole that it will require a great deal to induce her to give up the position she has gained among the great nations of the world—much more than any advantages that China can possibly hold out to her for adopting such a course. She may be friendly with China at the present moment, as it well suits her to be so, but if China puts herself into conflict with foreigners, there can be very little doubt on which side Japan will declare, especially as she is bound by treaty to go with Great Britain, and the interests of all foreign nations would in event of any catastrophe arising be identical. It is quite true that Japan would not like to see any foreign nation dominant in China; but if matters were forced to such a point that some nation must assert authority in China or at least in some large portion of it, it is not by any means certain, indeed it is unlikely, that foreign nations would object to Japan doing so, or that Japan would not adopt that course. This is the contingency which stands before China, should she be so ill-advised as to persevere in a line of conduct such as will bring her into conflict with foreign Powers. She has happily escaped falling under Russia, but if she attempts to re-enact the rôle which she has recently played with Japan substituted for Russia, she will find that she has a very different nation and a very different state of affairs to deal with; and that foreign nations, who might have been willing to withstand the advance of Russia (as in fact they did for years, so far as moral and diplomatic action were concerned) such encroachment being manifestly opposed to their interests, would not oppose that if Japan, under whose sway the commercial and political rights of foreigners in China would be far safer than under the effete Chinese Government, which in face of all patience and against all hope had proved itself incapable of amelioration, either from without or from within.

The Chinese Minister to Italy informs the Waiwupu that the Cardinal Archbishop at Rome has requested the Italian Foreign Office to ascertain particulars of the Nanchang massacre.

MERCHANTS AND MINISTERS.

(Daily Press, 23rd March.)

The globetrotter, arriving at some place which happens to please his eye, and from which he usually departs without having had time to discover the drawbacks of permanent residence there, is often tempted, although quite innocent of malice, to misrepresent the position of his nation's consular representative. He perhaps views the outside of a nice house, and envies the man who can stay in a place with which he is temporarily in love; he may overhear the amount of the Consul's salary, and the comment "practically nothing to do," and a half-formed resolution to write to the papers rises in his mind. If he encounters some other globetrotter who has forced his way inside the consular residence, pestered that official with some petty grievance, and obtained a somewhat chilly welcome, the outcome is inevitable. The visitors mutually arrive at the verdict that the consul is not earning his salary, that their money, taxpayers' money, is being squandered, and that somebody ought to be told about it. We have a suspicion that this is no fancy picture of what takes place, and that some consuls in the Far East could add to it if they wished. It is so easy to criticise the work of others when we come into contact, it may be, with only the fringe of it. Mr. LOUIS SPITZEL, who claims an extensive experience of business in the Far East, utters a complaint with more apparent reasonableness than the globetrotter; but one that we are inclined to regard as exaggerated. Taking part in a correspondence in the *Times* he asserts, "without fear of contradiction," that a great deal of business, involving the employment of thousands of British workmen, has been lost to Great Britain "by reason of the apathy that has been displayed by the British diplomatic representatives." We have sometimes been tempted ourselves to complain of apparent apathy towards political questions of great moment; and past chairmen and secretaries of our Chambers of Commerce will no doubt say that such complaints have often been warranted; but it is a pity that Mr. SPITZEL could not give a hint to guide us to some specific case which might lend force to his protest. There might, of course, be some danger in doing so, but we think that very remote. While it may be true, as he says, that he has been personally informed "by such representatives" that it is not their business in any way to aid the British manufacturer to secure orders, we feel sure that such a plea could only have been advanced under extraordinary circumstances, or by some representative not typical of the fraternity. As a matter of fact, however it came to be expressed, it is a quite untenable argument, and the practice of many of Great Britain's able representatives has put it out of court. No good can come of Mr. SPITZEL's odorous comparisons of the British with the German Ministers, for as we know, even with the character he gives them of energetically encouraging the trade of the Fatherland, they too often come in for the censure of their nationals. A much better illustration may be found in the case of American representatives, whose particular attention to the needs of American trade has often been noticed; and yet against no body of men have we heard more complaints from Americans. COUSIN 'NATHAN shares to the full JOHN BULL's propensity to grumble; and although in his expressive idiom he calls it "kicking," it really amounts to no more. Mr. SPITZEL wants the Foreign Office to re-organise the present system, to appoint thoroughly trained

men, and to give instructions that wherever the British manufacturer produces credentials from the Foreign Office, every possible assistance must be given by the Government representative. There may be a risk that armed with such a sweeping instruction some manufacturers might expect too much, and the representative of the nation become a mere agent of the first firm to claim his services. However, whether the complaints be wholly or only partly justified, we have no doubt that British representatives abroad will in due course hear from headquarters. We notice that a resolution to be introduced to Parliament has been composed as follows:—"That His Majesty's Government, having approved in principle that a Secretary of State for Commerce shall be appointed in lieu of the President of the Board of Trade, it is desirable that the Consular Service in its commercial branches shall be transferred from the Foreign Office to the Department of Commerce, to be under the Minister of Commerce, and no longer under the Foreign Minister." Both Ministers and Consuls must be trembling in their shoes, wondering what a Radical-Labour Government may not demand of them.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on March 20th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. F. Clark (president) presided, and there were also present:—Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Dr. W. W. Pearse, M.O.H., Dr. Macfarlane, Lieut.-Col. Josling, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Mr. Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. F. J. Badeley and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

LIMEWASH OR PAINT?

In reply to a letter from the secretary of the Board instructing the Hongkong Steam Laundry Co. to whitewash certain woodwork, the manager wrote stating that the walls of their premises were entirely of glass and iron, the only woodwork being the framing to the glass and certain partitions in the offices. The Board surely did not intend to make them whitewash this like cattle pens, therefore he asked that somebody be allowed to visit the laundry and point out which parts of the woodwork were to be limewashed, or whether paint could be used. The offices were not the laundry, and the laundry bye-laws were meant for Chinese where coolies ate and slept among the clothes. No one lived in the steam laundry, and it seemed absurd to apply the same regulations to their premises.

Mr. HEWETT minuted: The application should be granted. I see that the secretary under date of February 2nd states "he is directed by the Board" to write that the woodwork must be limewashed. I have no recollection of the question being before the Board.

The M.O.H. minuted: I do not think we can say that regulations and bye-laws only apply to Chinese and not to Europeans. But of course there is the power of the Board to exempt where such a course is reasonable. The Board has already held that painted woodwork if cleansed need not be limewashed. Would the A.M.O.H. kindly see what he can do in the matter. I suggest that the Board allow the laundry to paint the woodwork instead of limewashing.

Mr. HEWITT said he objected to matters of that kind being settled by some official or members of the Board and a letter written in the name of the Board. He was sorry to say that that was not the first or second time that such a thing had occurred, letters of that sort being sent in reply to special letters making application for modification of regulations, as if the Board had been consulted. If letters were to be sent out without the Board being consulted it was a farce for unofficial members to attend. They were there not only to see that certain regulations were carried out, but he took it they had another duty. They knew perfectly well

that if the Buildings Ordinance was carried out it would be invaluable to a large section of the community, and it was their business to see that the regulations of the Board were properly carried out without undue friction. Here was a case in point. He had heard time after time of hardship being inflicted on Chinese who, when they got an order like the present, never thought of proceeding further against what appeared to be the wishes of the Board. There was a growing antagonism to the enforcement of that Ordinance, but letters were sent out in the name of the Board when an appeal had been presented. It was very rare that people would stand up against the Board, and send in another application. Certainly that letter showed that the manager had ideas of his own. That was the second or third time that that point had been before the Board. It supported what he had heard about the large number of cases where hardship had been inflicted through a rigid application of the regulations. When Dr. Clarke's predecessor was in the chair, he gave him (the speaker) an assurance that in future no such letters would be sent out without the matter having been before the Board. He would ask the Chairman to renew the assurance given the Board eighteen months ago by Dr. Atkinson that in future no application for a modification of regulations be treated in that manner. He objected to being responsible for any reply to an application which he had never seen.

Mr. HOOPER—I would like to ask whether the Secretary had the authority of the Board, and if so, at what meeting was it given. Will the minutes of the meeting be produced at which the Board decided that letter should be written?

The CHAIRMAN—I certainly was under the impression that every application for exemption was submitted to the Board. In this particular instance I don't see that any application has been made to the Board.

Mr. HEWETT—There is an official letter from the Company asking for a modification of the regulations.

The CHAIRMAN—You refer to this memorandum from the manager?

Mr. HEWETT—It is not a memorandum. It is a letter from the manager.

The CHAIRMAN read the letter which informed the Board that a large portion of their premises consisted of woodwork and iron.

Mr. HEWETT—In reply to that a letter was sent as from the Board. That letter was perfectly unjustifiable.

Hon. Mr. BREWIN—Question.

The CHAIRMAN—The reply was—In reply to your letter I am instructed by the Board that it appears on inspection there is a large portion of unpainted woodwork which should be limewashed. Have it done with as little delay as possible.

Mr. HEWETT—Quite so. He is directed by the Board. I have no knowledge of the Board having made such a direction.

The CHAIRMAN—The Secretary acted on the understanding that he did not regard that as an application to the Board. With regard to the assurance you ask I shall be only too pleased to give you an assurance that every application should be laid before the Board. This particular one did not pass through my hands. I can understand it might have been regarded not as an application to the Board.

Mr. HEWETT—I know there are constantly complaints in the Chinese community as to the manner in which the regulations are enforced. It seems to me we ought to enforce them with as little friction as possible; and much of that friction is caused through the receipt of letters which are written as if they came from the Board. Had it been before the Board I believe this application would have been granted. The principle is a very important one. I am very glad to have your assurance.

The SECRETARY—May I explain so far as I am concerned in this matter. In the first place I have had instructions from the Colonial Secretary that all letters must be written by the direction of the Board.

Hon. Mr. BREWIN—It is a legal question, I think.

The SECRETARY then stated that the letters he had received this year up to date numbered 1403, and during that time there had been five Board meetings. If he were to submit all the letters he received that would be about 200 at each

meeting. When that application came before him it was sent to the Medical Officer of Health, who with the President, formed a sub-committee to deal with all applications in connection with limewashing. That matter as to whether unpainted woodwork should be limewashed had been dealt with by the Board on November 5th, 1903, and in accordance with that decision and the instructions that ordinary routine correspondence was to be sent out in the name of the Board, he despatched the letter in question as part of the ordinary correspondence.

Mr. BADLEY—Is there any application for exemption in these papers?

The CHAIRMAN—No.

Mr. BADLEY—Then, there is no application.

Mr. HOOPER—If anyone makes an application for an exemption, are the sub-committee to be the judges of that and not the Board?

The CHAIRMAN—The whole trouble has arisen through the fact that that memorandum was not regarded as an application.

Mr. BADLEY—It seems to me, sir, that is not an application.

Mr. HEWETT—It is not a memorandum. It is a signed letter from the manager, which to the ordinary business man forms an application.

Hon. Mr. BREWIN—Would you mind reading it?

The CHAIRMAN read the letter.

Hon. Mr. BREWIN—Is that an application for exemption?

Mr. HOOPER—That is meant for an application.

Mr. HEWETT—You must take it in conjunction with the reply ten days later, by which time the manager of the laundry presumed the application would be before the Board. The secretary writes "in reply to your letter, I am instructed by the Board to inform you that it appears on inspection . . . and to request you to have it cleansed with as little delay as possible." The one is a distinct application for exemption from limewashing. Ten days later he is informed that with regard to that particular letter the Board authorised that the work must go on.

Hon. Mr. BREWIN—We are all agreed that an application for exemption should be referred to the Board. This is a misunderstanding of which I might have been guilty myself. It is unfortunate that there should be such a difference between business English and official English. I hope the public and the unofficial members will pardon us.

The CHAIRMAN—The application is that the bare woodwork be exempt from limewashing.

Mr. HOOPER moved that the application be granted.

Mr. HEWETT seconded.

On being put to the vote the Chairman declared that the motion was lost.

WATER TANKS.

An application for permission to erect a water tank in a back yard was received.

Mr. BADLEY—What is it for?

The PRESIDENT—To store water.

Mr. HEWETT—If we grant this one we may have hundreds of applications, especially at this time.

The application was refused.

SANITARY BOARD V. BUILDING AUTHORITY.

Mr. HEWETT moved that the matter marked "confidential" be treated as ordinary business.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded.

The PRESIDENT—I see no reason why it should not come before a meeting of the Board.

The PRESIDENT explained that at last meeting a recommendation was received from the Medical Officer of Health for the appointment of an additional inspector of nuisances for Kowloon owing to the increase in the amount of sanitary work in that part of the Colony. It was referred to a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Hooper and Humphreys and himself to consider the question and report. The report was now ready. It was signed by both Mr. Hooper and Mr. Humphreys, but he had not felt justified in signing it.

The report expressed the opinion that it was not necessary to appoint a sanitary inspector, because the sub-committee did not anticipate any immediate growth of Kowloon, and pointing out that sanitary inspectors had to discharge duties for the Building Authority as well as the Sanitary Board.

The PRESIDENT said he was unable to sign the report because he considered that if work

carried out by the inspectors at present was transferred to the officers of the Building Authority it would be more expensive. He thought the matter might stand over for twelve months. Mr. Hooper was certainly in a position to say whether there was likely to be any work in Kowloon. He (the President) thought they ought to be content with the appointment of an additional foreman scavenger, which the report also recommended.

Mr. HOOPER, in moving the adoption of the report, said he was surprised to find it was not a unanimous report. Proceeding, he remarked that the sub-committee had found that several duties were carried out by the Board's inspectors for the Public Works Department, duties with which the Board had no concern and in respect of which they had no jurisdiction. It would be admitted that if their servants had not those duties to perform there would be no necessity for additional inspectors. He would go further and say they would do with less than they had to-day. It was astonishing to find that the Secretary now signed for the Building Authority, the Governor having delegated that power. Why, he did not know. The Secretary had no technical knowledge. That, he must say, was something that required righting. He thought that should be brought to the notice of His Excellency, and that when the Legislative Council asked to sanction the estimates the relation between the two authorities should be discussed. He was sure His Excellency did not know that part of the money voted for sanitary charges was devoted to the Public Works Department.

Mr. HEWETT said the duties of the Sanitary Board and the Building Authority must overlap. There was an old maxim that a man cannot serve two masters, and it was, in his opinion, undesirable that an official should work part of his time for the Sanitary Board and another part for the Building Authority. He suggested a conference between both bodies to consider the question of the allocation of the work.

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM thought that the duties which the sanitary inspectors did for the Building Authority were trivial. If these were to be taken out from the inspectors it would mean that a separate set of overseers would have to be employed to go round to look at those trivial matters. Again they would be apt to create friction. The great talk had been recently that full information should be given at once of everything requiring to be done. If they separated those matters notices would be sent in at different times from the two authorities.

Mr. HOOPER rejoined that that was exactly what took place to-day. He had received six notices—three at different times from the Sanitary Board and three from the Building Authority.

The PRESIDENT said the work done by the inspectors here was precisely the same as at home. They were not called upon to attend to any technical building work. He thought the present arrangement was the most economical. It was not wise to have a double set of inspectors.

Mr. HOOPER maintained that that was what took place at present.

The PRESIDENT thought the matter should be left to a committee.

Mr. HEWETT said it was clearly a matter to be discussed between the two departments.

The PRESIDENT moved as an amendment that the Board recommend the appointment of an additional foreman scavenger.

Hon. Mr. W. Chatham seconded.

Mr. HOOPER said if the report accompanied that recommendation to His Excellency he would withdraw his motion.

This was agreed to, and the discussion ended.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ending March 3rd the death rate per 1,000 per annum of the British Foreign and Chinese community, excluding the army and navy, was 14.1 as against 14.3 for the corresponding week of last year.

LIMEWASHING.

The number of houses limewashed during the fortnight ending March 13th is 4,375 in the eastern, 3,765 in the central and 3,755 in the western district.

BREEDERS OF PLAGUE.

The rat return, which was laid on the table, showed that out of 658 rats caught during the week ending March 10th 48 were infected.

while 45 rats were discovered out of 719 killed during the following week.

The M.O.H. asked the Board to again advertise asking people to report whenever they found their houses rat-ridden. They do so now, he said, but a reminder would be advisable as the plague season is beginning.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, March 19th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

Li I Mui, who described himself as a bank clerk, was indicted on two charges of forgery. The first count alleged that he forged a passage ticket with the intention of obtaining a passage to Bangkok per s.s. *Loosok* on the 22nd February, and the second alleged that he uttered the said ticket with the intention of defrauding the master of the said steamer. The Attorney General (Sir Henry Berkeley), instructed by Mr. C. E. Morrel (of Messrs Denny and Bowley), prosecuted. Prisoner, who was undefended, pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled—Messrs. C. M. G. Burnie (foreman), W. E. Craig, John Buchan, B. J. Spittles A. O. Lang, H. Haines G. L. Hales.

The Attorney-General in opening said the passage tickets would be put in and the jury would have little hesitation in coming to the conclusion that they were very clever forgeries, in this case the name of the steamer *Loosok* having been filled in. Evidence would be given to the effect that when prisoner was arrested and his place searched a large number of those tickets was found, clearly indicating that he was engaged in extensive frauds on the steamboat company. It was not a difficult forgery by reason of the many blanks. The prisoner was detected in the following manner. A native went to a hong where the tickets were authorised to be sold in order to purchase passage tickets for friends of his who wished to proceed to Bangkok. There he was informed that there were none left, but prisoner who happened to be present and overhear the conversation accosted the applicant and told him he could procure tickets for him at the Yuen Fat hong. The applicant agreed to take the tickets and told him to bring them to his shop that evening. Prisoner did so, and said he would call again for the money, the price being \$11 for each of the eighteen tickets. The native, who knew the ordinary price was \$13 each, sent his foki next day to the steamer to ascertain if the tickets were genuine. He did not return and when the witness went to the steamer he found that his foki had been detained and he was himself arrested. Subsequently the police were informed and when they arrested prisoner they found a book containing 81 forged tickets, all chopped and ready for use. Besides the native in question, another man would speak to purchasing tickets from prisoner at \$12 each.

Evidence having been adduced at length, the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and prisoner was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

NO EVIDENCE.

The Attorney General intimated that in the cases of Choy Chung Li, committed on a charge of fraudulent bankruptcy, and Lo Fui Chan, Lo Chu San and Lo Tak Hing, charged with conspiracy in connection with the above case no indictments had been filed.

Wednesday, March 21st.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT, CHIEF JUSTICE, AND MR. A. G. WISE, PUISNE JUDGE).

A PARTNERSHIP DIFFICULTY.

Chan Ip Shi v. the Wing Kee firm and in the matter of an issue between the said Chan Ip Shi and Lau Sui Chin. Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding, appeared for the appellants, and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. F. Dixon, represented the respondents.

Mr. Slade said that appeal was from a decision of the Chief Justice given in the early part of this year. They should not have ventured to appeal because to a large extent it was a question of fact had it not been for the very material question of how far the burden of proof should affect the decision of that case. In order to make the points clear he thought it would be well to relate the facts as nearly as possible in chronological order. The plaintiff, a woman, judging by the name, had obtained an injunction by the Court against the Wing Kee firm in July of last year. The Wing Kee firm carried on the business of the Ko Shing Theatre, the managing partner of which was Pang Hok-chu. In 1903 the Fung Kat bank's managing partner was Yuen Kok-cho. At the end of 1904 this man by reason of his extravagance and carelessness in administration brought the bank to a state of insolvency and was removed from his position by the other partners, and the defendant Lau Sui-chui was appointed in his place. He was really appointed to wind up the affairs of the bank. The previous manager went bankrupt in the summer of 1905 and died in December, 1905. It appeared from the evidence that he had made loans to the Wing Kee firm to a considerable amount, and also that he was in receipt of \$30 a month from that firm not to press them for repayment of their loans. Apparently that payment was also made to induce him to bring more capital into the firm. While he was manager of the bank in December, 1903, he subscribed out of the funds of the bank \$1,500 to the Wing Kee firm as and for a share. The position of this man whom he had described as a manager of the bank was a matter of some interest, perhaps more in relation to his creditors than in relation to the immediate facts of that case. He strenuously denied that he was a partner in the Wing Kee firm, perhaps not unnaturally, as the firm was not in a satisfactory condition, but he had been compelled to admit under examination that he was one of the promoters of the firm, that he received a tenth part of the profits, and that he had signed a number of promissory notes for money borrowed by the firm, in his own name and not as manager, which would limit his liability. This man stated that the defendant Lau Sui-chui had several interviews with him and he further stated that this money, \$1,500, which was brought by Yuen Kok Cho from the bank was taken by him to the Ko Shing Theatre and there paid over to the manager, an entry being then made in the partnership book. That and the cash book of the firm were produced, in which it appeared that the sum of \$1,500 was paid, and it appeared that it was entered under two hong names. The story of the witness was contradicted in every material point by the two witnesses called for the defence, by the defendant himself and by the assistant accountant, who was the sole member of the staff of the bank still resident in Hongkong. It was also contradicted by the books of the bank which his Lordship had held to be genuine books and properly kept. It appeared on the face of those books that the money was paid over to Yuen Hop Cho in the bank on that date. It appeared that the Wing Kee firm had pressed this man to do something for the \$30 a month they paid to him, and he put in that \$1,500 which he had obtained at very little expense to himself out of the bank. Proceeding, he contended that the burden of proof was undeniably on those persons who wished to impose that very serious liability upon the defendant, and he pointed to the remarkable fact that though he was said to be the only partner resident in Hongkong, yet the present manager of Ko Shing was not aware of it. Again this woman Chan Ip Shi had not attempted to obtain the fruits of her judgment from any other but defendant, who was being made liable for the debts of the company. All the facts raised a certain amount of suspicion, and if to that were added the very material discrepancies in the evidence which he had pointed out, he thought their Lordships would be very unwilling to saddle the defendant with the heavy responsibility which a decision adverse to him would involve.

Mr. Pollock afterwards addressed the Court, replying to the arguments of Mr. Slade. He contended that the evidence which appellant wished put in could not be admitted.

Their Lordships could not see their way to exclude the statement made by a partner in such proceedings. The Chief Justice said they had considered it merely in the abstract.

Mr. Slade then put in the statement and said that with that additional evidence he was entitled to succeed.

Mr. Justice Wise said the point to be remembered was that the Chief Justice was sitting in the case as judge and jury, and that being so the point to be considered was whether the decision was against the balance of evidence or not. He was of opinion that the appeal should be dismissed with costs.

The Chief Justice did not consider the books were fabricated. He did not think the statement put in carried the matter any further and he agreed that the appeal should be dismissed with costs.

The Court adjourned *sine die*.

Thursday, March 22nd.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A COMPRADORE'S BANKRUPTCY.

Lai Wai Chuen *ex parte* Lau Yang Shan. Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the petitioning creditor. He said that the debtor was formerly the compradore of the Hongkong Bank, but he had since left its service.

Debtor was adjudicated bankrupt.

AN INFANT'S BANKRUPTCY.

Chan Tai *ex parte* Chan Hing.

Mr. H. J. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) said the application was that a bankruptcy order made in 1903 be annulled on the ground that he was an infant. The order was made against a firm, of which it was thought this infant was one of the partners.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, appeared for the petitioning creditor, and admitted the facts. At the time the petition was filed they were not aware of the fact that that infant was an infant, as all the debtors were out of the Colony. The firm belonged to the debtor's father and when he died his sons carried on the business for the benefit of the family. He had no objection to the order being annulled so far as the infant was concerned.

Mr. Wakeman—I have no objection.

The Chief Justice—What is his age?

Mr. Bailey—Sixteen.

The Chief Justice—What is Chinese full age?

Mr. Bailey—Twenty-one, I think.

The Interpreter—No, sixteen.

The Chief Justice—Of course this is regulated by Chinese law.

Mr. Bailey—He was thirteen when the order was made.

The Chief Justice—There was nothing personal in the matter? It was merely as a partner?

Mr. d'Almada—Yes.

The Chief Justice—Very well, the application is granted.

WHAT IS A PLEDGE?

Re Hing Sing Cheong *ex parte* Hamburg Amerika Linie.

Mr. H. W. Wakeman said this was a notice of motion for declaration that the sum of \$7,247, the net proceeds of certain goods stored in the name of the above debtors, form part of the estate of the debtors.

Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker, and Deacon) said he opposed the application on behalf of the Yuen On Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

Mr. Wakeman stated that certain goods stored in the Hop Yick Godown had been pledged as security for the sum of \$18,000 advanced. A portion of the goods had been sold and this the Insurance Co. objected to, because it diminished their security. Proceeding, he said that on 21st January a petition was filed against debtors and a receiving order was made. At the time of the commencement of the bankruptcy they had a large quantity of goods stored in certain godowns in Hongkong, a considerable quantity of which was pledged to other people. The debtors absconded and they had not since been heard of. As far as the merchandise was

concerned, it was delivered by him on the production of the godown warrants, on the recipients giving an undertaking to account to him for any balance due after their claim was satisfied. The Fire Insurance Co. had goods pledged to them by debtor for several thousand dollars, but debtors took away a portion of these. The custom in Hongkong was to hand over the godown keeper's warrant and a promissory note at the same time. It seemed that the goods indicated had been taken away without the permission of the Insurance Company, and when they protested the godown keeper said he would substitute for the goods removed other goods belonging to debtors which were not mortgaged. This was before the bankruptcy. The point, he added, was simply a legal one. He submitted that there had been no pledge in that case at all. A pledge must be made by the actual delivery of the goods. Here the Insurance Company had been satisfied with a verbal agreement which he submitted was not a pledge according to law.

Mr. Looker argued that it was not necessary to obtain the godown warrant and the promissory note to constitute a valid pledge. All that was necessary to constitute a valid pledge was that the pledger should deliver the goods actually or constructively to the pledgee. The question was whether his clients had a valid pledge. If they had a valid pledge their right was good against the trustee and the creditors.

Legal debate ensued, after which his Lordship said it would be more convenient to adjourn the argument till next Thursday so that he could look up cases.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER TROOP.

The rifle meeting at Kowloon Range on Mar. 18, under the above auspices, proved very successful. The results are appended:—

THE KOWLOON CUP, presented by Mr. N. J. Stabb—200 yards, 7 rounds, lying, 1 sighter allowed.

- 1 Trooper J. L. C. Anderson 21
- 2 Corporal G. C. Moxon
- 3 Trooper G. K. Brutton

THE YAUMATI CUP, presented by Mr. C. H. Ross—200 yards, 7 rounds, lying, 1 sighter allowed.

- 1 Trooper A. T. Walker 21
- 2 Trooper W. R. Robertson
- 3 Trooper A. S. Henshman

THE KAM-TIM CUP, presented by Mr. W. A. Cruickshank—200 yards, 7 rounds, kneeling, to be completed in 50 seconds from command "commence."

- 1 Trooper L. Murphy 16
- 2 Trooper Brutton
- 3 Trooper W. G. Cruickshank

THE PING-SAN CUP, presented by Mr. G. C. Moxon—300 yards, 7 rounds, lying, 1 sighter allowed.

- 1 Trooper H. J. Gedge 20
- 2 Trooper H. W. Looker
- 3 Trooper Brutton

THE TAI-LAM-CHONG CUP, presented by Mr. Murray Stewart—300 yards, 7 rounds, lying, to be completed in 45 seconds from command "commence."

- 1 Trooper Henshman 18
- 2 Trooper D. Forbes
- 3 Trooper Walker

THE WO HANG CUP, presented by Mr. J. R. M. Smith—500 yards, 7 rounds, lying, 2 sighters allowed.

- 1 Sergt. N. J. Stabb 25
- 2 Lieut. Ross
- 3 Trooper Murphy.

THE TAIPO CUP, presented by Mr. H. J. Gedge, 500 yards, 7 rounds, lying, to be completed in 50 seconds from command "commence."

- 1 Lieut. C. H. Ross 24
- 2 Trooper W. Inglis
- 3 Trooper Brutton

GRAND AGGREGATE PRIZE, presented by Mr. W. J. Gresson, to the competitor making the highest aggregate at the meeting.

- 1 Trooper Murphy ... 147
- 2 Sergt. Stabb ... 140
- 3 Lieut. Ross ... 138

KOWLOON SCHOOL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

The annual distribution of prizes took place at Kowloon School on March 19, the event being attended by a number of interested parents and friends. Mr. E. A. Irving, inspector of schools, presided, and was accompanied by Mrs. Irving, Mrs. Bray, and Mr. B. James, headmaster.

As a preliminary the children sang a part song, after which Mr. Irving presented the prizes as follows:—

Form IV.—Form Prizes—1, Gladys Hume; 2, Nan Rodger. Scripture prize—Gladys Hume English prize—Nan Rodger. Mathematical prize—Ethel Parker. French prize—Nan Rodger. Needlework prize—Eva Rodger. Special prizes—Norah Stone and Lizzie Vanstone.

Form III.—Form prize—Lily Neave. Scripture—1, Lily Neave; 2, M. Rodger. English—C. Lowe. Mathematics—J. Rodger. Needlework—J. Rodger.

Form II.—Form prize—Bessie Robinson. English—Bessie Robinson. Mathematics—Bessie Robinson.

Form I.—Form prize—J. M'Glashan. Scripture—1, Rodger. English—D. Rodger. Mathematics—J. M'Glashan. History—J. M'Glashan. Needlework—M. Wilson.

Lower School: Class I—Conduct prize—Mollie Neave. Reading—Jessie Craik. Arithmetic—Recitation—Ella Robertson. Arithmetic—1, Alex. Kinross; 2, Rose Langley. General Intelligence and Scripture—Henry Stewart. Writing—Willie Stone. Spelling and Dictation—Nellie Vanstone. Class II—Conduct prize and Needlework—Enid Craik. Spelling and Dictation—1, May Smith; 2, Alister M'Donald. General Improvement—Willie Kerr. Arithmetic—1, Willie Watson; 2, Dolly Leason.

Infants—Class I—Conduct prize—Kenneth Robertson. Arithmetic and Writing—Colin M'Donald. Kindergarten prize—Dodo Ritchie. Reading—1, Kenneth Robertson; 2, Dodo Ritchie. General Intelligence—Willie Major. Class II—Reading, Spelling and Kindergarten—Elizabeth Skinner. Conduct—Charlie Stewart. Arithmetic, etc.—C. Stewart. Recitation—Maud M'Glashan. Sewing—K. Williamson. Scripture—Harry Langley. Class III—Sewing—Dolly Hume. Scripture—Nora Robertson.

The Chairman said he thought his first remark must be to congratulate those who had survived and were able to turn up after the horrible epidemic. Had it not been for that the number present would doubtless have been greater than before. Mr. James had informed him that the attendance had reached 80, which was very satisfactory. It had never been more than 70 before, and when it was remembered that the new European school opened had taken away a good many of the older boys there was reason for satisfaction. Not only did it show a real increase, but he thought that without boasting they could say their work had also shown distinct improvement. He would not speak of the singing, because the organist of St. John's Cathedral had made a report on that subject in which he spoke in terms of the highest praise of the singing. He complimented the children who had obtained prizes, making special allusion to the great progress that must have been made by the boy who won the prize for improvement, and in conclusion expressed the hope that at this time next year they would see parents present in even greater numbers than were there that day.

After the older pupils had given a part song, Mrs. Irving was presented with a beautiful bouquet by Miss Eva Rodger, and the proceedings terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

THE CONTINUED DANGER FROM FLOATING MINES.

Messrs. Gilman & Co., Lloyds Agents, have kindly informed us that their colleagues at Amoy sent them the following telegram:—

"Floating mine destroyed junk [off Cape] Turnabout ninth March."

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

On Saturday the Committee of the Club presented a cup to be sailed for round Channel Rocks, Kowloon Rock, and North Fairway Buoy, all to port. A good start was made in a stiff breeze from the East. Vernon, coming along the line on the starboard tack with sails well out, fairly intimidated the rest at the pace she was going, and got the best of the start. Gloria, on the port tack, made Kathleen go about, which nearly landed her on top of Dione. It was exciting while it lasted. Payne was the only boat that got left. Dione soon took the lead and headed for the Hongkong shore, followed by Vernon, Kathleen, Enia and Alannah. Enia, sailed by Dr. Clark, soon showed she had lost none of her old pace, and out-pointed and out-sailed both Kathleen and Alannah, eventually rounding Channel Rocks above three minutes behind Dione, followed by Vernon, Alannah, and Kathleen. The remaining starters kept to the north shore and were now a long way behind. This order was kept round Kowloon Rock, and, as the Fairway Buoy was approached, it looked any adds on Enia, but she managed in jibing either to hit it or go the wrong side of it. At any rate she lost a lot of time in getting round, and then went off towards Stonecutter's, which finally settled her chances. Vernon also went north, while Dione and Alannah went south. Kathleen, going right inside alongside the Praya, began to overhaul the leaders at a great pace, and a capital race ensued, she and Alannah striving to save their time on Dione. Alannah, who had been very well sailed throughout by Capt. Ward, R. A., then had the bad luck to be nearly put about by a passing junk, and Kathleen just managed to beat her for the second place. It is to be regretted that Capt. Ward is not stopping here to show us what he can do when he knows the harbour and the boats. Times:—

Dione (Fletcher) ...	4 02 47	4 02 47	(1)
Vernon (Tooker) ...	4 07 42	4 07 42	(8)
Alannah (Ward) ...	4 08 55	4 03 55	(3)
Kathleen (Watkins) ...	4 10 20	4 03 20	(2)
Enia (Clark) ...	4 11 30	4 04 30	(4)
Colleen (Pollock) ...	4 13 50	4 06 50	(6)
Chanticleer (Reynolds) ...	4 14	4 05	(5)
Min (Rouse) ...	4 14 15	4 07 15	(7)
Gloria (Warren) ...	4 20 22	4 10 22	(10)
Doreen (Hett) ...	4 23 25	4 05 15	(9)
Payne ...	...	...	gave up

11TH CLUB RACE.

Championship.—In this race Dione had a very easy win, the light breeze and smooth water suiting her well. Marks:—Vernon 68' Dione 61.

	H.	M.	S.
Dione ...	1	29	45
Vernon ...	1	41	38

ONE DESIGN.

At the start it fell quite calm and with the strong flood tide the yachts had much difficulty in crossing the line. Colleen eventually got over about two minutes after the gun, followed at intervals by Kathleen, Min, and Bonito. Colleen with a long lead then made for the Hongkong shore, followed by Kathleen, who rapidly began to overhaul her, and passed her near West Point. Min and Bonito kept to the north shore, which was apparently the proper course, as it was obvious when Min and Kathleen went about to make the markboat in Quarry Bay from opposite sides of the harbour that it would reach it first. In fact Min just managed to cross Kathleen's bows at the markboat itself, while Bonito was a very little way behind. There was no more excitement after this, Min keeping her lead, Kathleen's old sail not helping her much in the very light breeze. Marks:—Min 33, Kathleen 30, Colleen 29, Bonito 23. Times:—

	H.	M.	S.
Min ...	1	50	53
Kathleen ...	1	52	00
Colleen ...	1	53	42
Bonito ...	1	58	10

HANDICAP CLASS.

Only two boats turned out for this race. Gloria won comfortably without her handicap. Marks:—Chanticleer 61, Gloria 53, Alannah 36, Doreen 13. Times:—

	H.	M.	S.
Gloria ...	2	01	03
Chanticleer ...	2	02	35

THE HONGKONG WATER SUPPLY.

The urgent need for additional water storage is plainly apparent just now. The Water Return issued by the Water Authority showed that on the 1st inst. the total quantity of water in the reservoirs was 114,770,000 gallons, which was roughly 50,000,000 gallons less than on the corresponding date last year. The consumption for the month of February was given as 92,631,100 gallons. If the same rate of consumption was maintained during the first half of the present month, it means that the total supply had been further reduced by 46,000,000 gallons, before the Water Authority decided to put the city generally, including the higher levels, on an intermittent supply. Whenever this happens there is always a great outcry against the Water Authority, for despite the warnings always given by advertisement in the newspapers of the intention to put the city on a short supply on a given date, there are always plenty of "unwise virgins" who find themselves without water when it is too late to procure any more from the tap. But during the last few days there has been much complaint because in many parts of the city the water has ceased to flow an hour before the advertised time.

In the neighbourhood of Wellington Street where according to the advertisement one hour's supply is allowed daily, not a drop of water has come through the pipes since the 15th inst., and people have been compelled to procure what water they can elsewhere, and pay dearly for it.

In Glenealy every morning troops of coolies are to be seen proceeding to the top of the nullah in Conduit Road with buckets and kerosine tins to procure water. It is certain that the public analyst could not say of this as he does of the water from the reservoirs that it is "of excellent quality."

That the Water Authority has not enforced economy before there was need to do so will be apparent to anyone who has seen the reservoirs lately. Seeing these, one wonders where we get even our present allowance for an estimated population of 231,000 people on the island. Pokfulam reservoir is very low, the reservoir above Wongneichong is absolutely dry; the byewash at Tytam is in pretty much the same condition, and the Tytam reservoir itself is quite 50 feet, we should think, below the overflow mark.

The following particulars of the rainfall will afford an explanation of the present shortage of water:—

	1904	1905
September	9.770 inches	3.195 inches
October	2.005 "	1.830 "
November	0.215 "	0.280 "
December	0.230 "	2.370 "
	1905	1906
January	1.800 "	1.985 "
February	1.100 "	2.250 "
March	11.485 "	—

THE FOG.

The dense fog which has prevailed outside the harbour during the last few days has delayed the arrival of many vessels from the North.

The American Mail steamer *China* which left Manila at noon on Friday and was expected to reach here on Sunday had not arrived when this was written last evening. The *Loong-sang* which was also due here from Manila on Monday morning did not arrive until nearly five o'clock yesterday afternoon, but the *Zafiro* found her way into port yesterday. The French mail steamer *Oceanien*, from Shanghai, was sighted at Waglan on Monday evening, but did not enter the harbour until half past three o'clock yesterday, while the mail from the South was also late in arriving. The number of vessels waiting outside, already large, is constantly increasing, and old mariners declare that not for long has there been experienced such a calm in that vicinity as prevails at present. — *Daily Press*, March 21st.

Vessels which arrived in port on March 21st report delay owing to the dense fog which prevails outside. The s.s. *Daini Kotobira Maru* collided with the s.s. *Brand* early on Tuesday morning near the Pedro Banco rock, which is some miles distant from

Hongkong. Her after hold was smashed in, and is full of water. The extent of the damage is not yet ascertainable. — *Daily Press* March 22nd.

Following our brief report on Wednesday of the collision which occurred between the Japanese steamer "Daini Kotobira Maru" and the Norwegian s.s. "Brand," we have since been supplied with further particulars. It appears that the collision occurred about five o'clock on Tuesday morning off Pedro Blanco, an island some 60 miles from Hongkong. Both vessels were bound for this port, the "Kotobira Maru" from Karatsu and the "Brand" from Shanghai. A thick fog prevailed when the vessels collided. The Japanese steamer was struck on the starboard side of No. 5 hold, which soon filled with water, while the bow of the "Brand" is said to be considerably damaged. In a cabin above the No. 5 hold of the "Kotobira Maru" three men were asleep when the vessels struck. As a result of the collision one was killed and the other two injured. Apparently the two vessels were only a little distance apart exchanging signals in the fog, and the Japanese ship desiring to get near the shore changed her course with the result that the collision occurred. The "Kotobira Maru" arrived safely in the harbour at about two o'clock yesterday afternoon, but had to be beached at Wanchai. Discharging will probably be commenced this morning, and when completed the vessel will be docked for repairs. — *Daily Press* March 23rd.

The fog has now lifted.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

March 17th.

ANTI-FOREIGN NONSENSE FORBIDDEN.

Viceroy Shum received the following Imperial Edict by cable from the Central Government, Peking:—

"This Imperial Edict commands all Tartar-Generals, Viceroys and Governors of every Province to strictly prohibit the people from spreading anti-foreign gossip likely to deceive the people; to give protection to foreign persons and their property, and also all the Churches and Missionary buildings." Viceroy Shum has issued a proclamation to the people embodying the Imperial order.

PROPOSED STEAMER LINE TO KINGCHOW.

Last year Viceroy Shum ordered Taotai Heung Man-wing to raise the necessary capital to form a steamship company to run a line of steamers between Canton and Kingchow, the company to be run on similar lines to the China Merchants' S. N. Co. Heung Man-wing sent delegates to Hongkong and Kingchow, he himself working here. They have now been at work for the last three months but have achieved nothing. Heung Man-wing has now laid the matter before the Sin Han-kuk and has requested them to devise means to assist him in raising the necessary capital. It is said in reliable quarters that the scheme will fall to the ground, as the gentry and merchants are not prepared to offer their support in the matter.

March 19th.

THE VICEROY'S REVENGE.

It is reported that Wong Ping-yan (Taotai) has been compelled by Viceroy Shum to resign from the following positions: chief director of the likin board, president of the Sin Han-kuk, director of the General Chamber of Commerce, and director of the Yuet Han Railway. It is said that the Viceroy blames him for having failed to settle the railway trouble, as H.E. knew Wong's popularity among the gentry and merchants. The truth of the matter is that the Taotai wrote a letter to Chau Chi-tung expressing freely his opinion regarding the Viceroy's policy. Viceroy Shum has received a copy of the letter through one of his spies and is now taking revenge. Wong Taotai is an Imperial man and will soon be given another important position should he elect to leave the Province.

The following telegram was sent to the Board of Commerce in Peking yesterday by the Canton-Hankow Railway Company:—

"To the Board of Commerce, Princes, Ministers and assistant ministers. You are respectfully requested to see this telegram. The

merchants having taken over the control and the construction of the railway, have decided to raise a capital of \$2,000,000 in shares of five dollars each. The amount has already been promised. We have been collecting the first instalment of twenty per cent. from the 1st day of the 2nd moon, and up to the 20th day of this moon we have already collected \$1,300,000 and these monies have been deposited with different local Chinese banks. Besides the local subscription we have received applications from Cantonese abroad to the extent of over \$6,000,000. As soon as the official decree is issued that the railway is to be controlled and constructed by the merchants only, then they will forward the first instalment immediately to Canton. But although many people are paying their first instalment yet there are some who are not yet confident that the railway will be controlled and constructed by the merchants. We beg you to confirm your promise and afford us protection. We now request you first to memorialize the Throne to that effect and to have it on record and also to memorialize for the removal of the new taxation.

March 20th.

DISTINGUISHED GERMAN VISITORS.

On the 17th inst. the German Admiral, accompanied by his staff and Consul and Vice-Consul, called on Viceroy Shum. They were entertained to tiffin by His Excellency.

OFFICIALS ABANDON POSITION.

A few days ago Viceroy Shum invited the leading officials to his Yamen to discuss railway matters. It was decided to abandon the railway offices occupied by the officials and to hand over the honour to the merchants if they undertake to repay the loan contracted with the British Government.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

On the 16th inst. the train running from Fatshan to Samsbui ran over a middle-aged peasant. The driver saw him at a bend and blew his whistle to warn him. It appears that the man was deaf and did not hear the signal. He was turning his back towards the coming train and was killed outright.

FOG CAUSES WRECK.

Owing to the foggy weather the *Pai On*, a steamer running between Macao and Kwong Hoi has struck on a rock in the neighbourhood of Ti Pai Shik. While she was sinking, several Chinese gunboats came near Yau Chi Fan. The commander of these gunboats, responding to the signal for assistance, brought his vessels to the wreck to rescue the passengers. He also engaged several fishing boats to give help. About 150 men were picked up from the wreck besides a large quantity of cargo and clothing worth about \$18,000.

SUBSCRIBERS IN ANNAM.

The Cantonese leading merchants in Annam have sent a telegram to the local Chamber of Commerce stating that they have taken up about 150,000 railway shares.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LTD.

The twenty-eighth annual general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the offices of the Company, King's Buildings, on March 21st. Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson presided, and there were also present—Sir Paul Chater and Mr. A. G. Wood (consulting committee), Mr. G. T. Veitch (secretary), Messrs. J. R. Michael, T. Arnold, A. Rodger, A. G. Stokes, B. Layton, T. S. Forrest, E. W. Butler, Brooke Smith, A. Denison, W. H. Gaskell, J. Dickie, J. H. Underwood, J. Y. T. Vernon, A. Ramjahn, Ho Fook, Ho Kom-long, Lo Cheung-shin, Fok Kam-yin, Ho Wing, Chan Hing-ki, Wong Leung-him and others.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, I propose if you have no objection to take the report and accounts as read. The result of working as disclosed by these accounts is to be attributed to our having large stocks of cheap raw sugar to deal with during the greater part of the year, and has been attained in face of a steady decline in the market, which in December had reached a level exceeding the most pessimistic forecasts. In January, 1905, the price of beet sugar was more than double what was current a year previously, the rise being due to extensive speculation.

induced by an expected shortage in the crop, which on the basis of consumption during 1904 pointed to the probability of supplies being insufficient. This expectation proved, however, to be erroneous, consumption being checked by the high level of prices established, and when to this was added the knowledge that an increased area was being put under beet cultivation holders showed eagerness to realize, with the result that values steadily declined, leading to the failure and suicide of a large speculator in Paris, which completely disorganized the market and drove prices to a point below what is generally supposed to be the average cost of production. As I have already mentioned, we had a considerable quantity of low-priced raw, and moreover we had the good fortune when prices were about their highest to make somewhat extensive forward sales of refined sugars the producing of which, coupled with other orders, employed the refineries for the greater part of the year; but during the last few months we found it necessary to curtail our output, demand in all quarters being very slack, as was to be expected when one considers the situation in Europe, which I have endeavoured to outline. This curtailment of production and stagnation in markets naturally led to an accumulation of our stock, and accounts for the largeness of the amount which appears in the balance sheet under the head of raw and refined sugar. Raw sugar in this item stands at cost, and refined has been taken over at prices which it is expected will be realized. When I state that our deliveries during the year totalled approximately 75 per cent. of what they were in 1904, which was a record year, it will be evident to you that margins on sales were altogether exceptional. The necessity of buying well ahead of our requirements has been frequently mentioned to you. It is to forward purchases that the profits of the last two years, aggregating over 150 per cent. of the Company's capital, are in the main attributable, but you have to recognize that your business is thus a highly speculative one, and must be prepared at times to look upon the reverse side of the picture. That is the case to-day, our forward commitments being at prices considerably in excess of current values, and we are thus compelled to provide a large sum for the purpose of reducing the cost of these purchases so that the present year may not be unduly handicapped. This provision of \$850,000 will reduce cost to a figure which on recent sales of refined allow normal margins of profit, but you will of course appreciate that it is impossible to say whether this will continue to be the position, all depending upon the market conditions when these forward sugars come to be dealt with. As to the other items in the balance sheet, the larger proportion of \$10,517.65 against "spirits and rum" represents casks in store, and \$290,179.17, the value of stocks of charcoal, coal and other stores. You will observe from the other side that of the sum of \$150,000 set aside last year \$63,870.15 has been expended on repairs and renewals. With regard to the present outlook, I am sorry to say that at the moment demand for refined is not what we would like to see it, but some improvement in this respect may reasonably be looked for very soon, and I see no cause to view the situation other than hopefully. The proposal to distribute a bonus to the European staff, I feel confident, you will endorse. It is a matter entirely in your own hands. I now move that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Mr. GASKELL - Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, - I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts, and from the remarks I have heard from the Chairman, I think those present will agree that the writing down of the raw sugar commitments to a comparatively safe level should prove beneficial to the Company. It is a prudent precaution to take, and a precaution of course which we should not have been able to take had it not been for the very large profits of 1905. As far as I am concerned, as a small shareholder in the company, I think the course was a wise one, and I hope in the future we shall be able to act on the same lines of writing down raw commitments of sugar to the lowest possible price.

The motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN moved and Mr. STOKES seconded that the Hon. Sir Paul Chater and

Messrs. A. G. Wood, F. Maitland and A. J. Raymond be elected to the consulting committee. Carried.

Mr. RUTTER proposed the re-election of Messrs. T. Arnold and W. H. Potts as auditors. Mr. DENISON seconded and the proposition was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN - That concludes the business, gentlemen; dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow morning on application. I am obliged to you for your attendance.

SHANGHAI DIVIDENDS.

The report for the year ended the 28th ult. of the China Import and Export Lumber Co., Ltd., whose paid up capital is Tls. 350,000, shows a divisible balance of Tls. 44,204. Of this the agents receive Tls. 4,073, a dividend of 10 per cent. is to be paid, and the balance, Tls. 7,952, carried forward.

The Directors of the Ice, Cold Storage, etc. Co., Ltd. propose to pay a dividend for the past year of 8 per cent. The paid-up capital of the company is Tls. 20,000, and the report shows a divisible balance, after writing off Tls. 13,501 for depreciation, of Tls. 21,141. After payment of the proposed dividend, the balance, Tls. 5,141, is to be carried forward.

At the annual meeting of the Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd., the following resolution was carried:-

That the Directors be authorised to appropriate the amount at their disposal, Tls. 115,656.65, as follows:-

A Final Dividend of 3½ per cent.	Tls.
on Preference Shares	17,500.00
A Final Dividend of 6 per cent.	
on Ordinary Shares	6,000.00
To Insurance Fund	15,000.00
To be carried forward	23,156.65

The shareholders of the Central Stores, Ltd., Shanghai, met on March 12th. The Chairman said: - After making full provision for depreciation, bad and doubtful debts, etc., there is an available balance for distribution of \$19,119.22. Out of this sum the Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of \$2.40 per share on the old shares, and to carry forward the balance. This result, we hope, will prove satisfactory to the shareholders, as the profit earned is nearly 100 per cent. greater than last year.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE LATE PERE LACRUCHE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR, - Your leading article of the 6th instant must appear to any impartial reader as most injurious not only to poor Father Lacruche, but also to all Lazarists and even all Catholic Missionaries. However, as your esteemed journal is usually moderate, I prefer to excuse you on the ground of good faith.

Undoubtedly, you have been misinformed, and you have taken as certain the telegrams from Chinese and Protestant sources - telegrams without any foundation whatever. Such telegrams are only calculated to impute the guilt to Father Lacruche; hence your description of him as a highway-robber.

I will just communicate to you the official account of the facts gathered from most minute enquiries and which has already appeared in the *Echo de Chine* of the 7th instant and in the *China Gazette* of the 10th instant. You will see from these accounts how Magistrate Kiang had compromised himself in a previous affair and how he succeeded in avenging himself *à la Chinoise* so as to bring most serious trouble on the Mission. I add to these the leading article in to-day's *N. C. Daily News*, which admits that the Chinese Press has exceeded all reasonable limits. The most astonishing part in this affair is, that a section of the English Press, without any regard for the honour of Europeans, has not scrupled to go hand-in-hand with the Chinese to calumniate Catholic Missionaries.

Hoping you will find space in your journal for these brief remarks, I remain - Yours truly,

C. M. GUILLONN,

Visiteur et Procureur

des Missions Lazaristes en Chine.

Shanghai, March 15th, 1906.

[We gladly publish this letter, but having already published a lengthy summary of the official report referred to, make no present use of the enclosures sent. We regard all the allegations (of physical violence) made against the late priest as preposterous and wicked, as we clearly stated in our leading article on the 1st inst. We disapprove of the political efforts and status of missionaries: but that is no reason why worse things should be imputed to them than they deserve. Any comments appearing subsequently to our vindication of the missionary, and apparently contradictory thereof, are most certainly to be regarded as contributed and published in good faith. - Ed. *Daily Press*].

NEWS FROM NANCHANG.

The Nanchang correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writing on March 3rd says: - On Monday the people gathered somewhat again, but were easily scattered, though crowds roamed the streets uneasily all day. The recoil came on Tuesday, and the thought of punishment was heavy in the hearts of all. The coming of foreign warships - would they destroy the city? Literally thousands of people left the city, the gates being choked by the panic-stricken populace. The dollar rose to 1,400 cash and rice became dear. Boatmen asked five times their accustomed price. The adherents of the various chapels were fearful with the rest, so a notification was issued by a Methodist Episcopal missionary, the Governor gladly acquiescing, stating that the gunboat was not to destroy, but to escort and protect the Consuls who were coming to settle the difficulties. It exhorted them to be at rest and remain in their homes. The missionary would visit the gunboat and go guarantee. This had a most salutary effect, the Governor assisting in its wide promulgation. The dollar dropped to 1,130 and the people ceased to move. Several boatloads of people, endeavouring to get away in the heavy wind, were capsize, and about twenty people drowned.

It is stated that the Governor of Kiangsi has offered the following rewards to those who succeed in capturing, or causing the capture, of the leaders of the recent Nanchang riots and their accomplices. (1) To the person or persons giving information of the name and residence of the chief of the rioters resulting in the man's arrest a reward of \$400 is offered (2) To anyone giving material assistance to soldiers arresting the chief rioter is promised a reward of \$800 (3) To anyone able personally to hand over to the authorities the chief rioter is offered the reward of \$1,000. (4) One-half the amount of the above-named rewards for the capture, as stated above, of accomplices and assistants of the said chief rioter.

SHANGHAI POLITICS.

The *N. C. Daily News* says: -

That the objection of those who oppose the recognition by the Municipal Council of the Chinese Consultative Committee is fully justified is proved by the leading article in Saturday's *Nanfangpao* as the following extract shows: -

"Of course, by accepting the present compromise of a Consultative Council, the Chinese by no means give up their right to claim representation in the governing body of Shanghai, and it is fully and clearly understood that when the proper time comes, the Chinese will ask to be accorded something that will do more practical good than a mere Consultative Council."

We quite acquit the gentlemen who compose the Committee at the present time of any intention of exceeding the limits imposed on themselves in their letter of the 28th ult., but the above extract shows how the concession made by the Council is regarded by the Chinese in the Settlement generally, and fully confirms our opinion of the danger of the action into which the Council have been led unwittingly. A letter in the same issue of our Chinese contemporary contains the naive suggestion that "the young and able-bodied Chinese of the Settlement (should) form themselves into a properly organised Volunteer Corps, to be under the control of the Taotai, and to co-operate with the Foreigners in maintaining order in times of unlawful agitation, or to stand for themselves should need occur." The italics are ours.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 10th Marh, 1906.—Long-reels.—The demand at the beginning of the fortnight was moderate, and since then has gradually increased; a fair general business has ensued and is developing through the sudden decline of Exchange. Native pieces have risen \$20 per picul and holders are only willing to sell at a further advance. From sales made we quote: Fres. Hing Cheong Sing 11/13 at \$920, Sun Yue Lun 9/11 at \$925, On Wo Hing 9/11 at \$910, Yuk Wo Hing 10/12 at \$890, Wing Po Cheong 10/12 at \$885, King Seng 11/13 and 13/15 at \$880, Cheong Sing 11/13 at \$880, Kwong Seng 13/15 at \$850, Best 2me. ordre 18/22 at \$755, Best 3me. ordre 11/13, 13/15, 14/18 at from \$745 to \$755. Short-reels.—Only a small business has been done during the fortnight, the higher prices asked being above the ideas of buyers. We can quote as paid \$855 for Kwong Shun Ching 14/18 and \$742 for Rereels No. 1 at 2 (Blue Ticket). Waste Silk.—The market has become quieter owing to the higher prices asked by dealers. Rates are nevertheless upheld on account of the scarcity of stock. "Pierced Cocoons" and "Market Extra unopened" are nearly exhausted for the season. Stock of Silk in Canton: 700 bales.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, March 10th, 1906, states:—The home markets are unchanged. Raw Silks.—The feature of the week has been the rapid decline in exchange in sympathy with silver, a decline of 1½d. since the date of our last circular. This has helped the Tsatlee market considerably and a good business has been done. Yellow Silk.—These silks have been more in demand and a moderate business has resulted. Hand Filatures.—A very considerable business has been done during the week under review in Crack Chops and Shanghai re-reels for the American market, and lower grade Filatures for the continent. Altogether some 1,300 bales have been settled, leaving stocks very low and consequently firmly held. Steam Filatures.—A fair business has been done this week, principally in common grades. Waste Silks.—Continue very quiet, supplies of all kinds being still very small.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 22nd March

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$1000	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1050	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$1100	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1170	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1050	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$1100	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$920	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	\$900	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$865	to	—	do.
Benares Old	—	to	—	do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 22nd March, state that 19 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 76,150 tons of coal. Since March 11th, 11 steamers have arrived with a total of 33,600 tons of coal.

Quotations:—

Cardiff	\$15.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	to \$9.50	\$10.25 ex-ship, steady.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00	nominal.
Miki Lump	\$11.00	to \$12.00 steady.
Moji Lump	\$9.00	to \$10.00 steady.
Akaike	\$9.75	to \$10.00 steady.
Bengal	\$9.00	to \$9.75 nominal.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee in his report dated Hongkong 23rd March, says:—A very disappointing fortnight has been experienced in our yarn market, as with a return of fair weather the usual Spring inquiry was confidently expected. This, however, may occur within the next week or ten days, failing which, importers may make up their minds for a dull and depressed market until the Summer demand comes round, as the Ching Ming Festival commences next month and will continue for four or five weeks. Meanwhile heavy arrivals ex recent contracts may be expected at very high prices, which will still further tax the storage capacity of our local Godown Company, the quantity of yarn already stored with them both at Kowloon and Wanchai being computed at no less than 153,000 bales. Receipts for the fortnight are practically nil, but on the other hand deliveries are quieter, and the falling off in stocks in not so heavy as was anticipated.

Sales during the interval aggregate 1,376 bales; decline in prices \$1 to \$2 per bale; arrivals amount to 2,546; unsold goods estimated at about \$3,000; and sold but uncleared yarn at 68,000 bales.

Local Manufacture:—No sales are reported.

Japanese Yarn:—Continues quiet.

Raw Cotton:—The market is featureless, China descriptions are entirely quiet, and a trifling sale of 25 bales superfine Bengals at \$23 is the only business of the fortnight. Unsold stock 300 bales Indian and 250 bales Shanghai. Quotations are \$20 to \$23 Bengals, and \$22 to 25 China.

Exchange on India, after touching Rs. 150½ for T/T and Rs. 150½ for Post, has again rallied and closes firm to-day at \$153½ and Rs. 154 respectively. On Shanghai 7½ and on Japan 103½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 9th instant, viz:—

Indian:—Market barely steady, total sales about 7,500 bales at irregular prices, estimated unsold stock 70,000 bales.

Japanese:—Holders firm and prices improving; total sales 3,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 93½ to 101 for No. 116s, and Tls. 107 to 108½ for No. 20s. Local:—Market firm but without business.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s latest Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 15th March, 1906, states:—Although the first batch of steamers to Tientsin have discharged there, and are on their way back, no news has yet been made public as to the reception that was accorded the goods on that market. Judging by the desultory way in which further supplies are being cleared the situation cannot be very favorable, and as far as the transportation goes there are the same complaints of an inadequate lighterage service, causing considerable delay at the Taku Bar. The weather in the North is unusually mild, and with a continuance of it the Port of Newchwang will probably open to-morrow, but a sudden change of wind may easily delay it until the 25th inst. There is a most disappointingly apathetic feeling about the opening of that market, which seems to belie all the hopes and promises of what would be the prospects for trade now the country is once more restored to peace. That it was to be allowed to return to its normal condition was of course out of the question, but at least it might have been permitted to assimilate the desired reforms in such a way as would not interrupt its established channels of trade; but the Japanese have apparently taken it upon themselves to define the manner in which the trade is to be done in future, and to endeavour to establish a modern system of financing in place of the "olocustom" of three months credits, or four settling days in the year. It is also shrewdly suspected that an arrangement by which their military notes can be economically and conveniently redeemed is one of their objects. However, be that as it may, it is not anticipated that a very great quantity will be sent up at first, or until it is more certain what the trade conditions are to be. The River markets are reported to be quieter again. Large supplies for Szechuen are accumulating at Hankow, waiting for the water to rise, which it should soon do now with the higher temperature that is prevailing over the country. It is reported that some satisfactory buying orders have been received from Chefoo and that a fair business has resulted from second hands. The reports of the Manchester market vary very considerably, and it evidently cannot now be treated as a whole. In some quarters, no doubt for particular goods, it is said there are indications of weakness, whereas others find that for the makes they are interested in it is as strong as ever, and deliveries as much protracted. The mills seem to be well engaged again for India in both Grey and White Shirtings. The opinion at present ruling here is that further buying had better be left alone for the time being and an endeavour made to bring the trade back to more legitimate and safer lines. The cotton market in Liverpool continues to fluctuate, but to no serious extent, the quotation for Mid American having advanced to 5.92d. on the 9th instant, but has since receded to 5.77d. Egyptian is also a little easier at 9½d. The New York quotation for cotton a week ago came 10.91 cents, but no change has been advised since. The market for Domestic is said to be slightly easier, but most of the leading importers are without advices. The yarn market is exceedingly quiet but prices have kept fairly steady. Native cotton is steady to firm. Piece Goods.—The hopes that the downward course of exchange would continue were doomed to disappointment, and instead of strengthening the market its sudden and what seemed determined fall has only aggravated the situation, the complete recovery of the drop at the close making it worse than it was before. Very little forward business is possible, and what sales are taking place from first hands consist chiefly of small lots that have hung fire for a long time. In one instance that was mentioned to us

some White Shirtings were sold at a loss, although their replacing cost at present is 1s. 9d. over what they were bought at originally. The possessors of old established chops are realising their values more and more. Although a small business is going on here and there in odds and ends the sales reported are almost entirely from second hands, the only actual transactions from first hands, of which particulars are given, being the Auctions, and they seem to have weathered the vicissitudes of exchange very well.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer Princess Alice, sailed on 14th Mar. For Colombo:—178 bags beans, 51 cases preserves. For Aden:—65 bags galangal, 3 cases cassia. For Genoa:—650 cases cassia, 377 bales raw silk, 40 bales hemp, 30 cases palm leaf fans, 18 cases furniture, 4 cases hemp. For Antwerp:—120 cases chinaware, 94 rolls matting, 48 bales leaf tobacco, 2 cases human hair, 1 case silk. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—55 cases bristles. For Amsterdam:—150 rolls matting, 75 cases ginger. For Rotterdam:—25 bales canes, 25 cases tea sticks. For Bremen:—180 rolls matting, 167 bales feathers, 2 cases blackwoodware, 1 case cigars. For Hamburg:—491 bales feathers, 250 cases cassia, 200 cases essential oil, 95 rolls mats, 92 bales canes, 31 cases human hair, 20 cases cantharides, 7 cases feathers, 6 cases cigars, 5 cases ginger, 2 cases curios, 1 case blackwoodware. For London:—342 rolls matting. For Hamburg or Copenhagen:—100 bales feathers. For Copenhagen:—150 cases cassia, 83 rolls matting, 2 boxes ginger.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—FRIDAY, 23rd March.

Telegraphic Transfer 2/0½
Bank Bills, on demand 2/0½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 2/0½

ON LONDON.—

Bank Bills at 4 months' sight 2/1
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2/1½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/1½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 258½
Credits 4 months' sight 262½

ON GERMANY.—

On demand 210½

ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand 50

Credits, 60 days' sight 50½

ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer 153½

Bank, on demand 154

ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer 153½

Bank, on demand 154

ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight 71½

Private, 30 days' sight 72½

ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand 100½

ON MANILA.—On demand 100

ON SINGAPORE.—On demand 14½ p.m.

ON BATAVIA.—On demand 123½

ON HAIPHONG.—On demand 3½ p.m.

ON SAIGON.—On demand 3 p.m.

ON BANGKOK.—On demand 62

SOVEREIGN, Bank's Buying Rate \$9.65

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael \$50.80

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 23rd March.—Freights are about the same as last reported, except that there is inquiry for steamers to load at Saigon and Bangkok for Hongkong. From Saigon to this: 10 cents last; to Philippines, a small carrier has been closed at 31 cents; to North Coast Java and Japan, no demand. From Bangkok to Hongkong, 30 cents and 23 cents berth rates. Java to Hongkong and Japan, nothing doing. Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul. Coal freights are firm. From South Japan Coal Port to Hongkong, \$1.00; to Swatow, \$2.00. From Puelo Laut to Hongkong, a steamer closed at \$2.25 and \$2.50 per ton. From Hongay to Canton, \$2.00 last; to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Ness—British steamer, 1,963 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.
Powhatan—British steamer, 1,640 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.
Tholma—Norwegian steamer, 1,187 tons, Puelo Laut to Hongkong, \$3.25 per ton.
Terrier—Norwegian steamer, 1,008 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Victoria—Swedish steamer, 1,181 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.
Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 31 cents per picul.
Petk—Norwegian steamer, 744 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 28 and 21 cents per picul.
Standard—Norwegian steamer, 909 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 28 and 21 cents per picul.
Fritthof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, Moji to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 23rd March, 1906.—We have nothing of any importance to report; the market remains featureless and inactive. Rates, however, in most cases rule steady, and buyers of some few stocks cannot be satisfied; more dividend money has been released during the week, but it appears to have been either absorbed or remitted home at the still ruling high rate of sterling exchange. Anyway it has caused no improvement in rates. Exchange on London 2/6½, on Shanghai 71½ nominal.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, with a fall in the London rate to £87. 10s., have ruled quieter and the temporary firmness reported in our last has not been maintained. Shares have been on offer during the week at \$855 without finding buyers, and it is probable that a somewhat lower rate would bring out sellers. Nationals remain steady at \$40 and shares could probably be placed at that rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions remain unchanged and without business at \$800, but close with probable sellers at \$795. China Traders have changed hands at 96½, and later at 96, closing quiet at the latter rate. Cantons have found further buyers at \$350 and close with buyers at that. North China and Yangtzes remain without any local business, and our quotations are taken from the last Shanghai circulars.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have ruled steady and have changed hands in small lots at \$300, closing steady at that rate. China Fire is still inquired for in a small way at \$85 but no shares are available, and it is possible that a point higher might be paid were any shares forthcoming. At the same time the demand is only a small one, and when it is satisfied the rate is not likely to improve in the immediate future.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled steady to strong with a demand which has been practically unmet at \$24½ to \$24¾, and at time of closing the market is steady to strong at \$24½ to \$24¾. Indo-Chinas have been placed to Shanghai at \$93 and close fairly steady at that rate. Douglases continue in demand at \$40, but shares are still unavailable. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars show no signs of improvement and we have no business to report, the market closing weak at \$190 ex the dividend of \$15 paid yesterday. Luzons remain unchanged but weak and without business at quotation.

MINING.—We have no business or changes to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been in better demand owing to reported more work at the docks, and after small sales at \$153 the rate has improved to \$155 with reported sales at \$156; the market closes fairly strong with an upward tendency. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves, after further small sales at \$101½, have been placed at \$101 and close quiet at the latter rate. Farnhams have ruled quieter during the week, and after small sales at Tls. 118 close steady at that rate. New Amoy Docks unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue at \$114 without business, but a few shares are wanted at that rate. Kowloon Lands have been placed at \$39 and close steady at that. West Points continue neglected and without business at quotation. Humphreys have found further buyers at \$11½ and close steady. Hongkong Hotels remain quiet and without business at \$132.

COTTON MILLS.—With the exception of Ewos, which have declined to Tls. 65, we have nothing to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have fallen to \$7 without business. Green Islands have been placed at \$30 and Watsons at \$13. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$855, sales & sel. London, £87. 10s.
National B. of China A. Shares	25	\$40, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$7, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 65, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$16½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 60
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 64
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 250
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 118, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$101
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$155, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$16½, buyers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 222½, buyers
Kewrick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$21
G. Island Cement.	\$10	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$16½
Do. New	\$10	\$16, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$215, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$132, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$230
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$143
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$10, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$850, sales & buy.
China Fire	\$20	\$85, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$96
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$300, sales & sel.
North China	25	Tls. 92½
Union	\$100	\$795, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$180
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$114, buyers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$11½, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$39, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 118, sales & buy.
West Point Building	\$50	\$53, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Baubs	18/10	\$3½, sellers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5½
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$189, sellers x d.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$35, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$18½
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, buyers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$24½, buyers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$93, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	21	24/-
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$23, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do.	\$5	\$6½, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$11, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 15th March, 1906, states:—There has been good business done during the week in all our principal Stocks, which have all increased in value, with the exception of Indo-Chinas; a fair business has also been reported in Miscellaneous, and a healthier tone all round prevails in our market. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/9½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. There is no business to report and no change in rates; Hongkong quotes \$860 ex. div. sellers, and the latest London quotation is £90.10/- ex. div. Marine and Fire Insurance.—There is nothing to report under this heading. Shipping.—Only a small business has to be recorded. Indo-Chinas. On the 8th Tls. 67½ March, 68½ June, and Tls. 69 July were reported. The same rates prevailed on the 12th, but on the 13th shares changed hands at Tls. 66 for March. No rates have been published since then. Shanghai Tugs. There has been no business this week. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. A good demand for shares has arisen and after sales at Tls. 117½ and 117 for March and Tls. 120 July, there were no more shares to hand. The next rates published were Tls. 119 for March and Tls. 123 July; at these respective rates our market closes strong. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. On the 8th shares were dealt in at Tls. 121½ and 230 June, and have been somewhat erratic since. On the 9th transactions took place at Tls. 232½ June and Tls. 230 July; subsequently a sale at Tls. 232½ July was registered. On the publication of the final dividend of Tls. 8 there were still buyers, and at the close we quote rates Tls. 223 March, and 227½ June. Sugars.—Perak Sugars. There are buyers at Tls. 70 for cash. China Sugars are quoted at \$210 Hongkong. Mining.—Kaipings have changed hands at Tls. 9.75 and close with buyers. A single transaction in Weihaiwei Golds is reported at \$15. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment. There are buyers of cash shares at Tls. 118. Industrial.—Ewos. There has been a good demand for shares this week, and from Tls. 63½ March the market has risen to Tls. 65, and shares have been dealt in at Tls. 70 for September. Laou-Kung Mows. These have been dealt in at Tls. 61 for March. Shanghai Gas Co. have been placed at Tls. 130 and there are further buyers at this figure. Shanghai Ices are quoted at Tls. 26. China Flours. There was a transaction reported at Tls. 90 for April delivery. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkats. A good business has been done in this stock with the general variations during the week. The market opened with sales at Tls. 230 and 229 March, and Tls. 235 June. A strong demand set in to close accounts for March and the rate advanced from Tls. 230 to 232½ and 235. For June there are buyers at Tls. 240 and sellers at Tls. 242½ at the close. There is no business further forward reported. Our market closes strong at these quotations. Shanghai Sumatras have been dealt in at Tls. 60 cum div. and Tls. 56 ex. div. Stores & Hotels.—Hall & Holtz have been placed at \$20; there are buyers. Central Stores (new issue) have changed hands at \$7.50 and \$7.60 Miscellaneous.—Telephones transacted at Tls. 58. A sale of China Import and Export Lumber Co. is reported at Tls. 100. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf debentures 6 per cent. at Tls. 96. Shanghai Municipal 6 per cent. debentures at Tls. 98. Gas 6 per cent. debentures at Tls. 96.

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report, dated Shanghai 15th March, 1906, states:—The Homeward Market remains without change, though the better weather has resulted in a little better movement of the cargo. Coastwise:—Rates from Japan have risen again and are now quoted at about \$1.50 per ton. The slight enquiry from the River ports continues, but shippers have held back for the opening of the Northern ports.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 48/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Harve 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland), Tea 6. \$1½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai: Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

March—

ARRIVALS.

- 17, Apenrade, German str., from Foochow.
 17, Cairo, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 17, Deramore, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 17, Johanne, German str., from Bangkok.
 17, Kansu, British str., from Saigon.
 17, Kostroma, Russian str., from Vladivostok.
 17, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 17, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
 17, Phuyen, French str., from Sourabaya.
 17, Senegambia, German str., from Singapore.
 18, Shansi, British str., from Canton.
 17, Siam, British str., from Singapore.
 17, Tentonia, German str., from Moji.
 17, Victoria, Chinese str., from Canton.
 17, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
 18, China, American str., from Manila.
 18, Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
 18, Haitan, British str., from Foochow.
 18, Ithaka, German str., from Canton.
 18, Itola, British str., from Singapore.
 18, Kampot, French str., from Macao.
 18, Ulaerand, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 19, Ban-yek, American str., from Hoilo.
 19, Benlawers, British str., from Singapore.
 19, Canadia, German str., from Bangkok.
 19, Cheongshing, British str., from Singapore.
 19, Dagny, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 19, Fooksang, British str., from Calcutta.
 19, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 18, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 19, Liberia, German str., from Kobe.
 19, Nicomedia, German str., from Moji.
 19, Oceanien, French str., from Shanghai.
 19, Poona, British str., from London.
 19, Thyra, Norwegian str., from Kuchinotsu.
 19, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 20, Banca, British str., from Moji.
 20, Baralong, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Benvorlich, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Francisque, French torpedo boat, from Hongay.
 20, Frondo, French torpedo boat, from Hongay.
 20, Gueyd n, French cruiser, from Hongay.
 20, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 20, Hangsang, British str., from Canton.
 20, Hinsang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 20, Javaline, French torpedo boat, from Hongay.
 20, I oongsang, British str., from Manila.
 20, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 20, Montcalm, French cruiser, from Hongay.
 20, Mousquet, French torpedo boat, from Hongay.
 20, Niss, British str., from Kutchinotsu.
 20, Peleus, British str., from Amoy.
 20, Rapier, French torpedo boat, from Hongay.
 20, Sabra, French torpedo boat, from Hongay.
 20, Shaohsing, British str., from Swatow.
 20, Taiwan, British str., from Bangkok.
 21, Arcadia, British str., from Bombay.
 21, Baltimore, U. S. str., from Manila.
 21, Chingtu, British str., from Melbourne.
 21, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
 21, Clam, British str., from Balikpapan.
 21, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
 21, Daini Kotohira Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
 21, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 22, Hashidate, Jap. cruiser, from Woosung.
 22, Itakushima, Jap. flayship, from Woosung.
 22, Kwongsang, British str., from Swatow.
 22, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
 22, Matsushima, Jap. cruiser, from Woosung.
 22, Neckar, German str., from Bremen.
 22, Segovia, German str., from Singapore.
 22, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Swatow.

March—

DEPARTURES.

- 18, Holstein, German str., for Hoihow.
 18, Kostroma, Russian transport, for Gdessa.
 20, I'agny, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 20, Glenogle, British str., for Rangoon.
 20, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 20, Ithaka, German str., for Swatow.
 20, Kampot, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
 20, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
 20, Kumsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 20, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 20, Senegambia, German str., for Kobe.
 20, Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Shoshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 20, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 20, Victoria, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
 20, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.

- 21, Apenrade, German str., for Haihow.
 21, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 21, Canadia, German str., for Yokohama.
 21, Liberia, German str., for Singapore.
 21, Losok, German str., for Swatow.
 21, Loyal, German str., for Bangkok.
 21, Maidzuru Maru, Jap str., for Swatow.
 21, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 21, Oceanien, French str., for Europe.
 31, Poona, British str., for Yokohama.
 21, Shantung, British str., for Chefoo.
 21, Shaohsing, British str., for Canton.
 22, Andromedr, British cruiser, for Shanghai.
 22, Arcadia, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Banca, British str., for Singapore.
 22, Baralong, British str., for Singapore.
 22, Benvorlich, British str., for Kohsiching.
 22, Peleus, British str., for Singapore.
 22, Callao, American gunboat, for Canton.
 22, Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Pitsanulok, German str., for Haihow.
 22, Semsen, German str., for Bangkok.
 22, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Kwongsang*, from Shanghai, &c., Messrs. Mackinnon and Slevuhn.

Per *Daijin Maru*, from Tamsui &c., Mr. and Mrs. Cartman.

Per *Laisang*, from Calcutta, &c., Hon. and Mrs. A. S. Womack and Miss Jiggins, Miss Billon, Dr. Browne, Dr. Holland, and Mr. Calahan.

Per *Chingtu*, from Melbourne, Mrs. Douglas, and 3 children, Mrs. Holdsworth, Mr. and Mrs. Davey and child, Mr. Davey, sen., Messrs. Simons, Gill, and Brown.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Messrs. Paul Becker, E. C. Elliott, George Byng, J. McCarthy and Francis Fochrenbach.

Per *Armand Behic*, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Mrs. B. Boyer, Messrs. Bartolome and Castio; from Bombay, Messrs. Takeuchi and S. Stanga; from Colombo, Mr. Lawrence Salt, Lieut. Gagnault, Col. and Mrs. Burton, Capt. Moncrieff, Mr. G. Perchard, Col. Robin, Major Home; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Baird, Messrs. Greskamp, de Julliany, Henri Levy, Plessier, Mercier; from Saigon, Mr. E. Dumas, Mrs. F. Holmes, Messrs. Leaf Premyslav, Hardouin, Daubre, F. Nicolai, and Mrs. A. B. Mouldr, Mr. and Mrs. Lecœur and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Rabaud and infant, Messrs. Aubert, Pignatelli and Katsuki; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Bouinai and infant, Messrs. V-rondart, Hallier, Honzelle, Brusq, de Querrec, Heret, Briais, Mr. and Mrs. Drouin, Mr. Albertasse Odomse; from Bombay, Mr. Ohmiya, from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Cammiade, Mr. S. B. Riley, Mrs. Volchensky; from Singapore, Mrs. and Miss Goldenberg, Messrs. Larrent, Forrentino Giacamo, Mrs. Margherita Didata; from Saigon, Messrs. J. Mosca, L. Berthoz, Willing, Favoyu, Mrs. Rosa Lasaros, Miss Maggy Lasaros, Mrs. Afaneu, Mr. and Mrs. Faries; for Kobe from Bombay, Mrs. Nagooka, Miss Oyuki; from Singapore, Mrs. Nisbett, Mr. Kimura; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. Kawada, G. Patin, Hutton Williams, Riche, Marguet, Tsantehiya, Mrs. Ronogre, Mr. H. Hamura; from Bombay, Messrs. D. Barry, V. K. Kingcome, Raphael; from Colombo, Sir and Lady Nicholson, Mr. and Mrs. Wynes and 2 children, Mrs. Kate Bezore, Mrs. J. L. Zinn; from Singapore, Mrs. Zachevna, Messrs. Blake, Adamson, Yamasaki, Zerner, Root; from Saigon, Mr. W. Hick, Mrs. and Miss Pirasse and Mr. Clary.

Per *Oceanien*, for Hongkong from Kobe, Mr. Roudon; from Shanghai, Messrs. Charignon, P. Pickwick, F. Schnok, Silva, L. Handean, Capt. Sheldrake, Mrs. Burns, Commodore Boucbrille, Messrs. L. Marston, Xavier, Rev. Mann; for Saigon from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. J. Osime, Mr. Wendrick; for Singapore from Shanghai, Mr. H. B. Marshall; for Colombo from Yokohama, Mr. Crockerly; from Shanghai, Mr. A. Kodaije; for Port Said from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Kasert; from Shanghai, Mr. Serwinsky; for Marseilles from Yokohama, Messrs. Lambico, E. Dentici, H. Jacobs, L. Moreau, de Hoyer, de Ranero; from Kobe, Mrs. Roudon and family; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Boletof, Messrs. G. Soulie, A. Kammerer, Letourneur, Fromont, Mr. and Mrs. Omby, Mr. Camu.

Per *China*, from San Francisco, for Hongkong Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. S. Dolliver, Mrs. D. H. Wall, Mrs. Hamberger, Mrs. Blacker, Mrs. Newmiester, Mrs. J. Frohman, Mrs. M. Nathanson, Mrs. M. Clifford D y Mrs. R. Rayer, Mrs. M. Kelly, Mrs. Knox, Miss Rantoul, Miss C. Booth, Miss M. H. Porter, Miss Hamberger, Miss N. Blacker, Miss M. Blacker, Rev. S. H. W. Dirby, Master Hamberger, Count and Countess Bouzi and infant, Messrs. J. Amoy, A. N. Rantoul, J. W. Porter, Sol. Hamberger, R. B. Blacker, A. A. Mackillop, E. L. Mouser, J. G. Newmiester, W. S. Layton, F. S. Harris, F. S. James, A. Mackenzie, W. T. Gray, T. W. Dahlker, E. A. McMillan, J. M. Holmes, W. A. Dowley, L. Knox and A. W. Rettig.

Per *Arcadia*, for Hongkong, from Bombay, Col. and Mrs. Yougerman, Messrs. Bussir, F. Black, Stringfellow and W. Stratton; from London, Mr. R. Johnson; from Colombo, Capt. and Mrs. Whitsher and maid, Mr. and Mrs. Nagelmachers, Mrs. Taylor, Baron and Baroness Seckendorff; from London, Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Biddey, Mr. and Mrs. Bailey, Miss Barber Messrs. H. W. Bird, J. Meek and N. S. Forbes; from Marseilles, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Calthorpe, Miss Bryant, Rev. G. Bunbury, Messrs. E. Ormiston, W. Cantlay, A. Orgin, K. Alterton and C. R. Hewlett; from Brindisi, Mr. S. H. Noyes; from Melbourne, Mr. W. J. Thomson; from Singapore, Rev. and Mrs. Odell, Mr. and Mrs. Boies, Mr. and Mrs. Kolowitz, Mr. and Mrs. Creagh, Miss Leslie, Messrs. C. Y. Mark and F. Mitchell; from London Mr. and Mrs. Lawton, Messrs. Hopkinson, A. Robb, R. W. Sindall and J. Hartnoll; for Shanghai from Bombay, Mr. F. M. Caine; for Yokohama, from London, Miss B. Crosse; from Marseilles, Mr. T. Martin; for Shanghai, from Colombo Mrs. B. Frost; from London, Mr. and Mrs. Stooke, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Wood and child, Lady Frances Turner, Miss Williams, Messrs. W. Harvie, H. E. Baker and W. Heap; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Burkill and child Mr. Turner, Messrs. A. Craddock, W. Scott, G. Barwald and M. Elinske; for Yokohama, from London, Miss E. McVean, Messrs. B. Thompson and H. Thompson; from Marseilles, Messrs. C. J. Baker C. J. Lindsey and D. J. Dunlop, Miss G. M. Bell, Miss A. M. Langlon, Miss Rhodas, Mr. and Mrs. W. Macpherson, Messrs. S. Clarke and W. H. Bishop; from Brindisi, Mrs. Wilson, Miss Helm, Miss Salte; from Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. J. Stevens, Mrs. Alward; from Marseilles, Col. and Mrs. Barrett; for Shanghai, from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Messrs. Brundt, G. Grayrigge, S. Hankin.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Messrs. P. Miller, J. Phillips, G. Reuz, J. F. Nelson, and Mrs. Rommeirez.

Per *Armand Bihic*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Pattenson, Mrs. Anna J. de Jesus, Messrs. Carl Aug. Weber, Graf von Amim, Graf von Bismark, Quintas, Theodolino d'Oliveira, Dounonberg, W. Watson and Lorion; for Kobe, Messrs. K. Nomura and Rondon; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. de Montfort, Lieut. B. Buxton, Lieut. Regnault.

Per *Oceanien*, from Hongkong, for Saigon; Mrs. Ranzy, Rev. P. G. P. Laurent, Messrs. L. Balliste, S. Ohta and Vuong Kho; for Singapore, Rev. and Dr. M. C. Wilcox, Messrs. Poussen, de Bruin, Nielssen, Vander Kaa, Van Hekken, Lodivico Grtega, A. W. Prantoh and Hajhees Hasaon; for Marseille, Mr. and Mrs. Mezieers, Mrs. Le Carduner, Messrs. Moxieres, James Boyd, Randon, Wronceki and P. Bonlanger.

Per *Nikko Maru*, for Manila and Australia, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Bolland, Mr. and Mrs. B. Goldsmith, Mr. and Mrs. K. Yessawa, Mrs. and Miss H. Shimono, Miss Rioka, Dr. C. Ishikawa, Capt. S. Slocum, Capt. Steen, Messrs. F. W. Richardson, M. A. Rodriguez, G. Faulbawm, W. A. Peairs, J. E. Clarke, G. N. Lamb, F. Bennett, W. Lawrie, D. S. Chamberlain, R. Marni, T. Ito, E. Cheverlange and K. Misaka.

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